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DICK CHENEY • SADDAM HUSSEIN • COLIN POWELL  
AND INTRODUCING OSAMA BIN LADEN AS THE PHANTOM MENACE

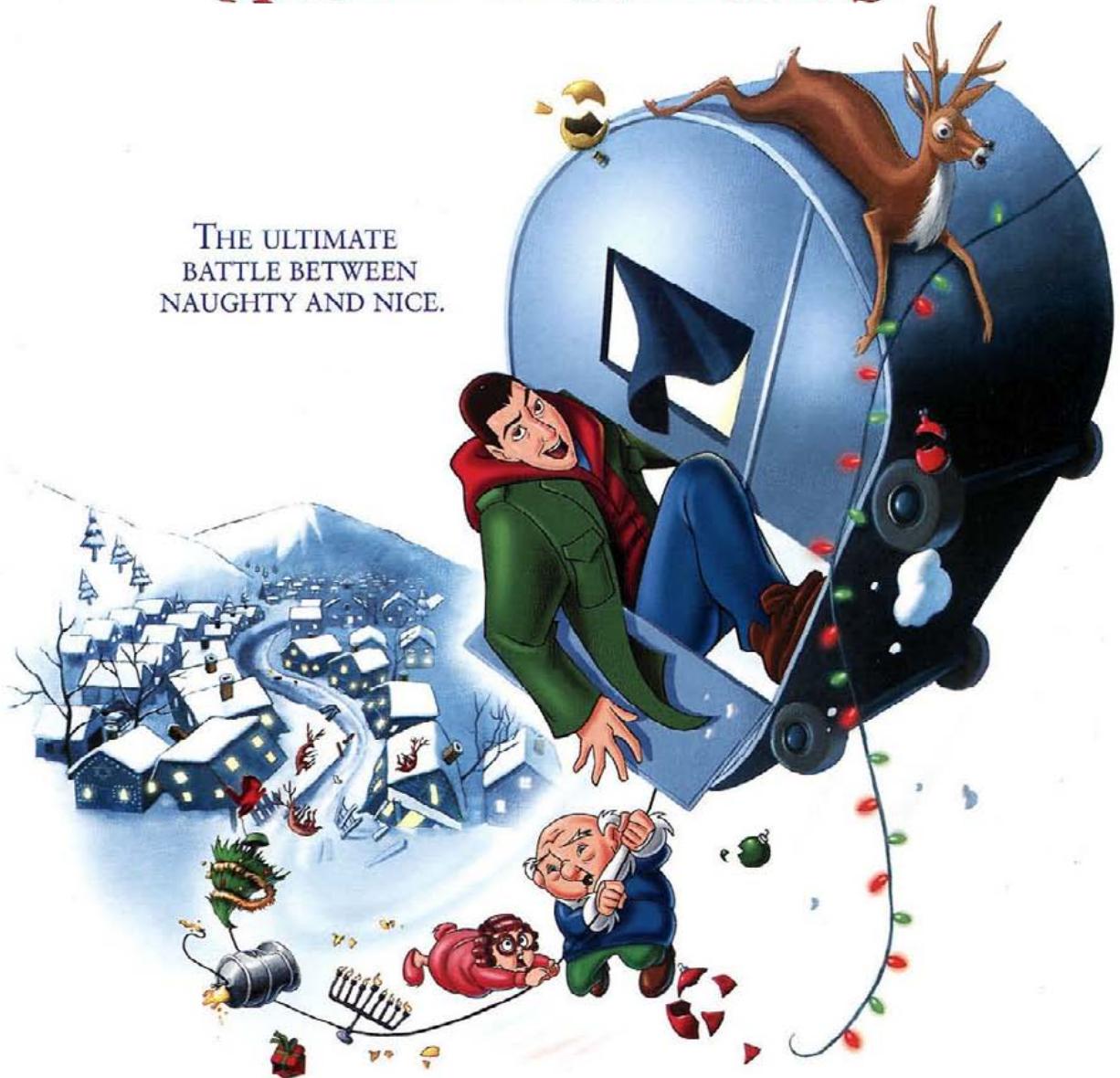
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Violence, Language, Sexuality, Nudity, Profanity

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NOVEMBER 27

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Executive Producers: Gary Nardino, Jonathan Littman

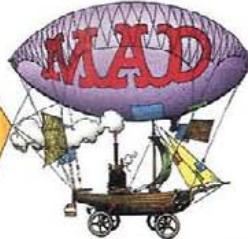
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# 50 YEARS OF STUPIDITY!



DECEMBER 2002

NUMBER 424

## D E P A R T M E N T S

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cover

**Just because you put your foot down doesn't mean it won't end up in your mouth!**



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MORT DRUCKER

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WRITERS: ARIE KAPLAN AND SCOTT SONNEBORN



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## MAD FAN OF THE MONTH



Ben (left) and Josh at the History Fair

This month, we are starting a new feature called *MAD Fan of the Month!* We kick off this splendid new segment with a photo of Ben Weide and Josh Birch of Jacksonville, FL who sent in the following photo and letter:

Enclosed, please find a copy of our History Fair submission. The topic was "Revolutions in America." While we got voted best in the class and moved on to the next competition level, we didn't get far as the judges realized this was pure trash and had no historic value!

If you can find someone to take a picture of you and your MAD collection, send it to: MAD Fan of the Month, c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, NY, NY 10019!

## A POKE IN THE SPY

I was reading Spy Vs. Spy in MAD #420 and at the end the girl killed both spies — that sucked! Next issue, Black Spy and White Spy should work together to kill the girl. Maybe they could bury her in sand up to her neck and have an army of flesh-eating ants eat her alive.

Tyler Cameron, Nova Scotia, Canada

Yo Bo — Thanks for your interesting suggestion. As you may know, the spies have been appearing in the pages of MAD for the past 42 years. Every issue the Black Spy and the White Spy battle each other for spy supremacy. It's been that way, as we said, for some 42 years (THAT'S THE FREAKIN' FORMULA!), and if we do say so ourselves, it's been a successful formula — sworn bitter enemies fighting against each other to a perpetual stalemate. But now, let's just throw 42 years of treasured history out the window because Tyler Cameron has had some brilliant creative stroke and wants to team the two spies up for what will undoubtedly be the final ruinous episode of the beloved *Spy Vs. Spy!* Thanks for destroying everything, Tyler. Antonio Prohias must be spinning in his grave! —Ed.



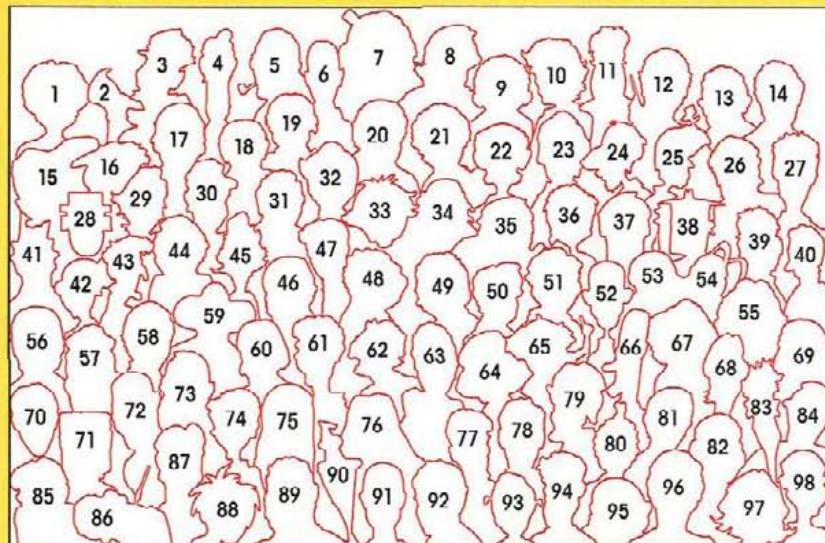
## CARICATURE FLAWS

In MAD #423, to celebrate our big 50th anniversary, we included a free poster depicting many of the Usual Gang of Idiots! We couldn't figure out who half the people were and we work here! So this issue, we've included a handy-dandy schematic to identify all of the Idiots! Who knew Rick Tulka was so dreamy? Enjoy!

1. Jenette Kahn
2. Antonio Prohias
3. Jack Davis
4. Don Martin
5. Dave Berg
6. Harvey Kurtzman
7. William M. Gaines
8. Nick Meglin
9. Al Jaffee
10. Mort Drucker
11. Sergio Aragonés
12. George Woodbridge
13. Angelo Torres
14. Paul Levitz
15. Joe Orlando
16. Paul Peter Porges
17. Bob Clarke
18. Norman Mingo
19. Will Elder
20. Al Feldstein
21. John Ficarra
22. Dick DeBartolo
23. Frank Jacobs
24. Paul Coker
25. Duck Edwing
26. Irving Schild
27. Richard Williams
28. Max Brandel
29. Jack Rickard
30. Stan Hart
31. Jerry DeFuccio
32. Annie Gaines
33. John Putnam
34. Leonard Brenner
35. Charlie Kadav
36. Joe Raioia
37. Mike Snider
38. Peter Kuper
39. John Caldwell
40. Tom Cheney
41. Gerry Gersten
42. Dorothy Crouch
43. Lou Silverstone
44. Tom Koch
45. Frank Kelly Freas
46. Larry Siegel
47. Wally Wood
48. Basil Wolverton
49. Arnie Kogen
50. Desmond Devlin
51. Sam Viviano
52. Rick Tulka
53. Anthony Barbieri
54. Bill Wray
55. Nadina Simon
56. Roberto Parada
57. Mark Fredrickson
58. Bob Jones
59. John Severin
60. Harry North, Esq.
61. David Shayne
62. Monte Wolverton
63. Drew Friedman
64. Amy Vozzelas
65. Tom Bunk
66. James Warhola
67. Hermann Mejia
68. Russ Cooper

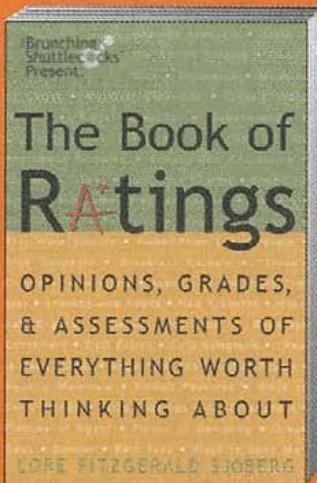
69. Scott Bricher
70. Mark Stutzman
71. C.F. Payne
72. James Bennett
73. Phil Hahn
74. Andrew J. Schwartzberg
75. Marla Wyche
76. Timothy Shamey
77. Tom Richmond
78. Dennis Snee
79. Barry Liebmann
80. Pat Merrell
81. Michael Gallagher
82. Ryan Flanders
83. Greg Leitman
84. P.C. Vey
85. Butch D'Ambrosio
86. Gary Hallgren
87. Darren Johnson
88. Amanda Conner

89. Ray Alma
90. Bob Staake
91. Scott Maiko
92. Dave Manak
93. Kevin Pope
94. Ricky Sprague
95. Jeff Kruse
96. Dave Croatto
97. Patty Dwyer
98. Brian Durniak



# funny new stuff

from Three Rivers Press

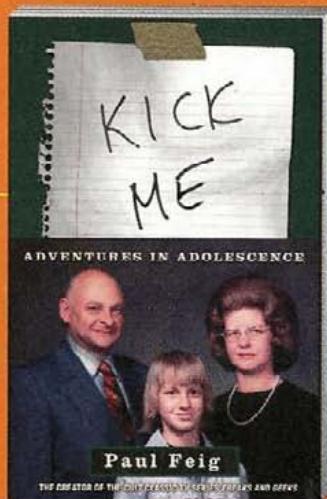


You want judgmental? **Here's judgmental!**

Do you walk around snidely rating everything in your path? Teachers, TV shows, supermodels? Of course you do! But Lore Sjöberg has elevated this to an art, attaching letter grades to everything in sight, from breakfast cereals and Monopoly tokens to pizza toppings and plagues of Egypt. *The Book of Ratings* is hilariously arbitrary and undeniably compelling.

## Confessions from the guy who created *Freaks and Geeks*

Ah, public school . . . dodgeball bombardments, hellish bus rides, insulting nicknames, ill-fated prom dates, and other highlights of an education in humiliation. Paul Feig recalls it all in side-splitting, cringe-inducing detail.



Paul Feig

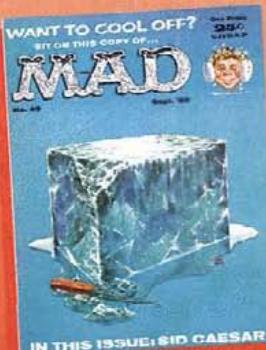
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## All the news that's fit to reprint

Onion fans rejoice! *The Onion Ad Nauseam* features everything published during *The Onion's* thirteenth year: every news story, opinion piece, news in brief, horoscope . . . every hilarious word that appeared between October 2000 and October 2001. Includes loads of material no longer available online or anywhere else.

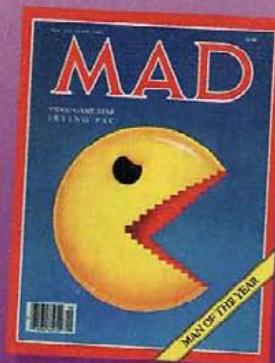
We asked readers to send a note telling us when they started subscribing to MAD and/or when they began reading it, in celebration of our 50th anniversary. We received so many responses we're only able to present a small sampling of them! Part one appeared in last month's issue. Without further ado, we present part two. Thanks to everyone for sharing their memories with us!



I remember buying my first issue on a trip with my family to Des Moines. It was issue #49 and the year was 1959.  
— Lee Polikov, Bellevue, NB

I have been collecting MAD for 23 years (I'm 33). The very first time I laid my eyes on an issue, I decided to start collecting.  
— Noel Butchart, Chapin, SC

I first subscribed shortly after the magazine changed its format from that of a comic book. My late wife and I would fight over who got to read the magazine first when it arrived.  
— Richard Bridgeman, Newark, CA



I have been buying your magazine since I was seven years old. September, 1982 was the first issue I bought.  
— Bryan Steward, via e-mail

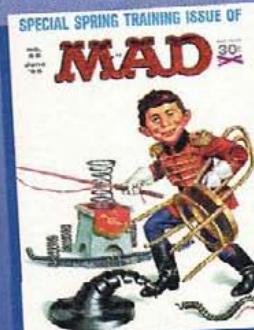
I believe I started my subscription with you the first years you accepted subscriptions in the 1960s. I had MAD #1, bought from a local newsstand when I was 15. My subscription has moved around substantially. I was in the military, so it has gone to California, Kentucky, Ohio, Washington, D.C., Paris, etc.  
— John B. Catiller, via e-mail

I've been a subscriber for the last 12 years, but I haven't missed an issue since 1972, I was ten years old at the time.  
— Frances Davies, Ontario, Canada



I have been a subscriber since #129, September, 1969. MAD has always been an important magazine to me, as nowhere else am I able to obtain such a clear definition of pop culture. In other words, even at the ripe old age of 47, I can keep up with the teenagers and twenty-somethings of today because by reading MAD, I'll be wise to their ways.  
— Daniel Lovegren, Elk Grove, CA

I doubt I am the longest subscriber in Utah, but I have been a subscriber since I was 14 so I guess that makes 15 years! My sister asks me every year what I want for Christmas, I tell her "renew MAD!"  
— Chris Horne, Murray, UT



My first issue was #89, September, 1964. I finally got up enough nerve to fill out the subscription card and it began with #95, June, 1965. There is no doubt that my sense of humor and general outlook on life has been greatly shaped by MAD. I can still remember on Yom Kippur 1965 after returning from temple, I was set for a long boring day. However, my MAD arrived in the mail that day (#99, December, 1965) and I was ecstatic.  
— Hal J. Freiman, Scarsdale, NY



My first subscribed issue was #214, April, 1980. With 23 years of MADs in my possession, I'm probably one of Colorado's longest subscribers.  
— Jere Barto, via e-mail

I have been subscribing to MAD for over 40 years. I was a subscriber in 1960. I am 52 years old and I spent 22 years in the army. When my eight issues a year came, I would always have to read it quickly so that it could be passed around the company. Sometimes I never saw it again.  
— Larry Schwab, Phoenix, AZ

I subscribed in the early 50s, when it was a comic book. In the middle of my subscription you switched to a magazine format. You did not give me credit for a one-year subscription paid; since the new price was higher, you cut it short.  
— Tom Reesor, Conway, SC



I actually purchased MAD #24 and I began subscribing with issue #33.  
— Dick Commander, Chester, VA

I was on your subscription list for at least 20 years.  
— Laura Pearlstein, Stoughton, MA

I'm 78 years old and have been receiving MAD since it first came out in 1952. The funny part is, I don't even read it! My husband orders it under my name!  
— Helga Peterson, via e-mail





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## THE DEVIL & MS. VOSBURGH

I never thought your stupidity could be at all helpful, I was wrong! My mother (we call her the Aztec Goddess of Suffering) is about to move into a new house with the address of 666! I was worried that something terrible might happen to her there and she might end up living with me — and worst of all start cooking again! But no, you nuts have saved me! I'm confident that the gold crucifix, the pounds of garlic and the silver bullet from "Mr. Fix-It Tackles Your Occult and Paranormal Home Repair Problems" (MAD #419) will ensure the crazy old chick stays where she belongs — In her own house!

Diane Vosburgh, Lombard, IL

Princess Di — We're glad to be of service. Tell your mom we hope she enjoys her new home, especially the bedroom, bedroom, bedroom! —Ed.

## P.X., I HATE YOU

I am currently stationed in Bosnia Herzegovina and happened to pick up issue #421 at the PX. I was disgusted when I read page 26, "The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Official Edict on Pedophile Priests." I'm a soldier proudly serving my country to protect all freedoms, including free speech, but it's unfortunate that people like Mr. Devlin would abuse his right by writing an attack on Catholics. Mr. Devlin should be ashamed of himself and MAD should be ashamed of themselves. I'll pray that Mr. Devlin's soul doesn't rot in hell. I will no longer buy your magazine and I will encourage other American Catholic soldiers to boycott your magazine.

Spc. Quezada, 28th M.P. Co  
Camp Eagle Base

Que — Thank you for your letter. Pray all you like, but if you do it in a church, we have these words of advice: watch out for some of dem priests. You follow? —Ed.

**BLANKS  
FOR THE  
MEMORIES**

In MAD #423 we printed a special bonus MAD crossword puzzle. We couldn't figure out half the answers and we work here! Even with the answer key, we're still stumped! Enjoy!



### Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

I need a wish granted and the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™ writers are the only ones equipped to the task. In MAD #413, you printed a picture of Osama bin Laden with a rusty nail driven into his eye. My wish is that you print a picture of him with a red-hot rod driven through his head.

Jason Hodne, Pine Bush, NY

J-Ho — Even though it's not exactly a dumb wish, who are we to stand in the way of your splendid little request? On behalf of the entire board of the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation*™, enjoy! —Ed.



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Paul Levitz, September 20, 2002

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*the usual gang of idiots*

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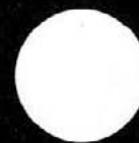
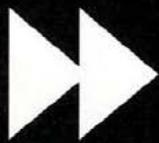


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Who needs nine lives when you can control time?



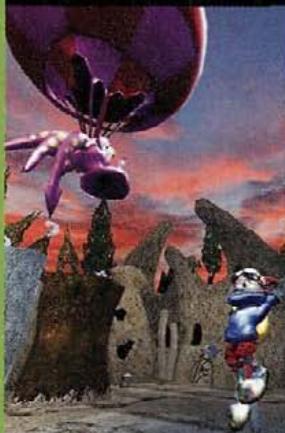
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THEY'RE OFF TO BE THE WIZARDS DEPT.

Teachers and parents agree that J.K. Rowling's four *Harry Potter* books have energized the world of publishing. Single-handedly, they've reintroduced children to the unparalleled joys that only reading can bring. So what do they do next? They turn them into movies, so all those lazy bastard kids can revert right back to their usual drooling, catatonic state. Great! So much for the joys of reading! In fact, chances are none of you are even bothering to read this whole boring paragraph with all these words, the one that introduces...

I am Albus Doubledork! On behalf of Halfwits and its professors, but mostly the holders of plunging AOL Time Warner stock, I welcome you! This promises to be a rich and rewarding sequel...er, I mean, semester! This school was built on one thing: tradition! A certain way of doing things! And that's why we pretty much repeat the exact same plot as the first book!

That withered stick insect next to me is Professor McConjugal, the school's second-in-command! Now, considering that my idea of leadership is letting Druckermort, the most evil wizard alive, use the school's basement like a time-share resort whenever he feels like dropping by, just imagine what a total mess *she* must be!

Over there is Rubiks Haggard! Seeing our freakishly enormous groundskeeper year after year lets the students know one thing: Vince McMahon is not hiring! This 400-pound Furby has a very special, close relationship with different species of animals. Many of them live in his beard!



Runt Queasy is one of our second-year students. His dad's an ineffectual doofus, his older brother is a self-important big shot, and his little sister, Ninny, is a lovesick dummy who's the personal assistant to the most evil wizard in history! All of a sudden, Harry Plodder's family looks good! They're all dead!

Next we have Herwhiny Grungy. Nobody knows who put the wand up her butt! She may be half witch, half human, but she's 100% pest! She's such a colossally irritating know-it-all that she should be web designing one of those snooty Harry Plodder fan websites!

# P101der

ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN

## AND THE LAMEST OF SEQUELS

That scowling curmudgeon sticking pins in his Harry Plodder doll is Prof. Severely Snapped! He's an embittered wannabe who desperately wishes HE could be the #1 man in charge! But he'll never get the chance because nobody likes him. Think of him as the wizard world's Al Gore!

There in the corner is Tom Riddler, semi-invisible bad guy! He's really the evil Druckermort, but uses a phony name! He writes misleading messages back and forth with a young girl, Ninny Quesasy, through an incredible magic diary. Why doesn't he just use IMs on AOL, like every other perv in the country?

Our newest teacher is Corduroy Pockmark, author of the world's phoniest biography!

Every page is designed to disguise the fact that he's an egomaniacal fraud. He's the Rudy Giuliani of wizardry! He's written dozens of books, all with the same problem: he uses the letter "I" more than the other 25 letters in the alphabet combined!



And the star of our little fiasco is Harry Plodder!

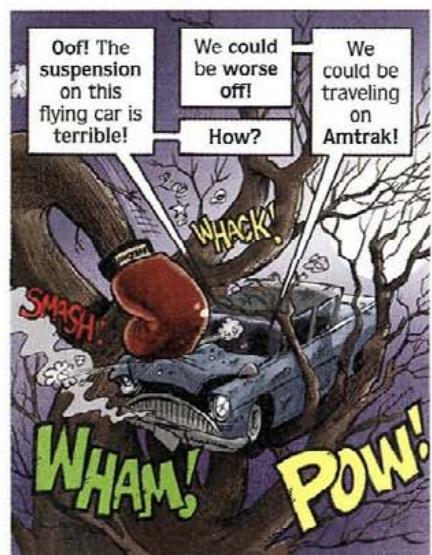
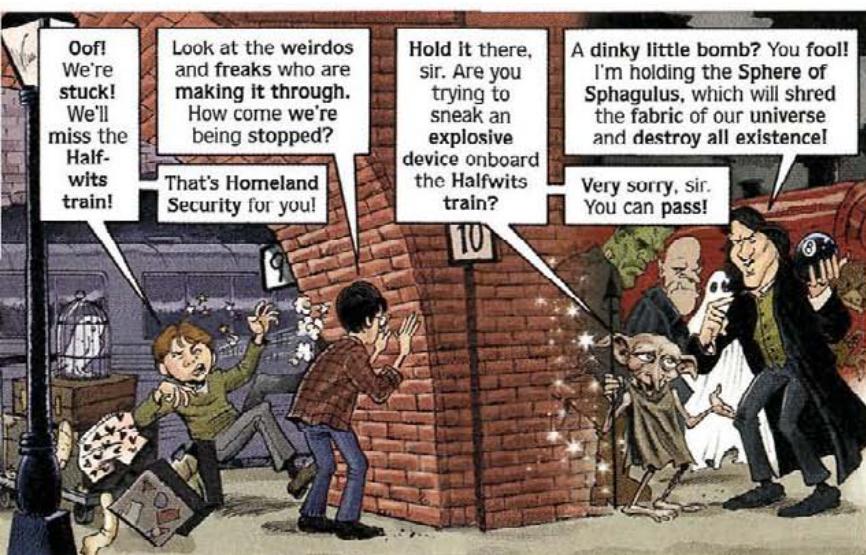
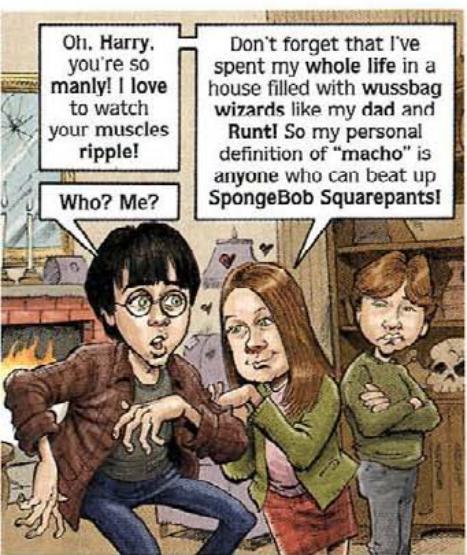
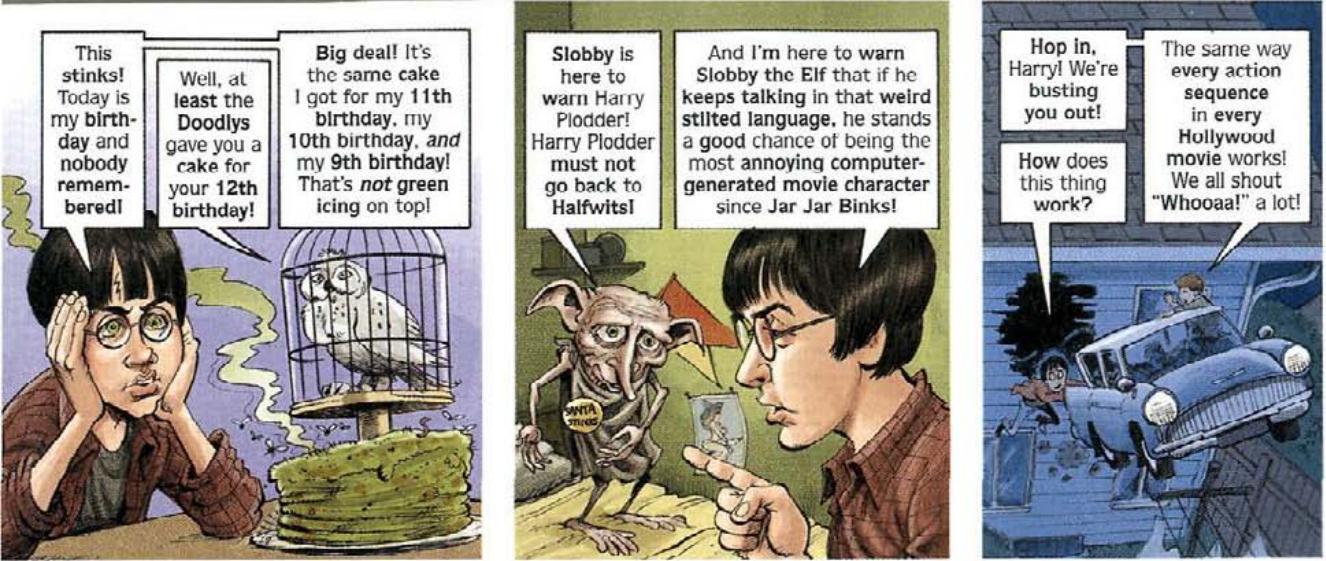
He's got incredible wizard powers locked deep inside. He also has a lot of personal pain locked deep inside. In fact, everything's inside with this blank-faced little stiff – especially some acting talent which he's yet to unlock!

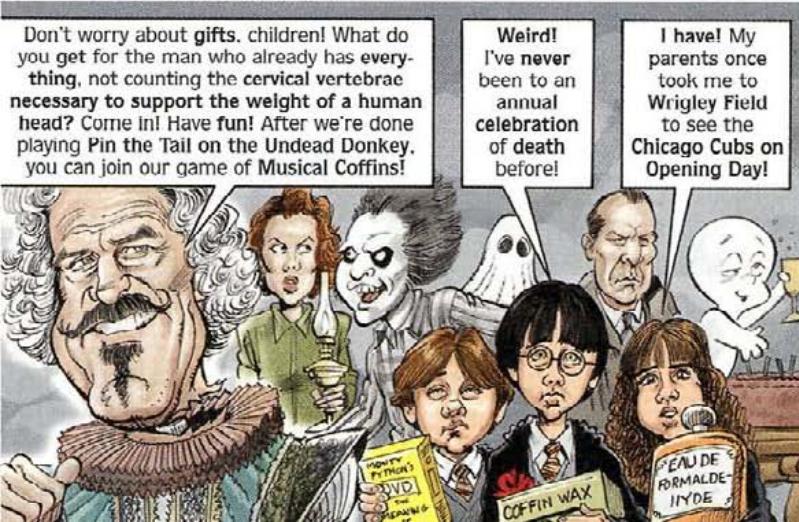
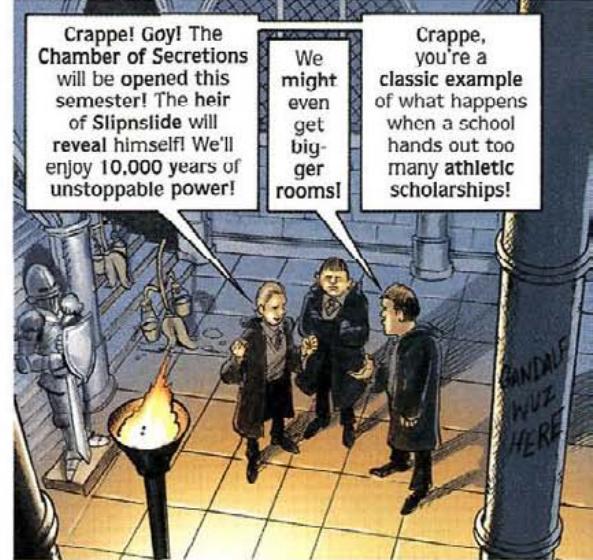
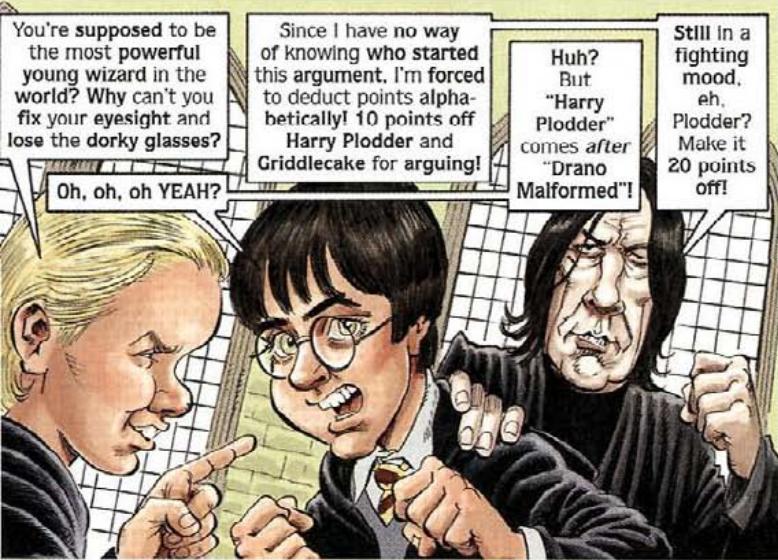
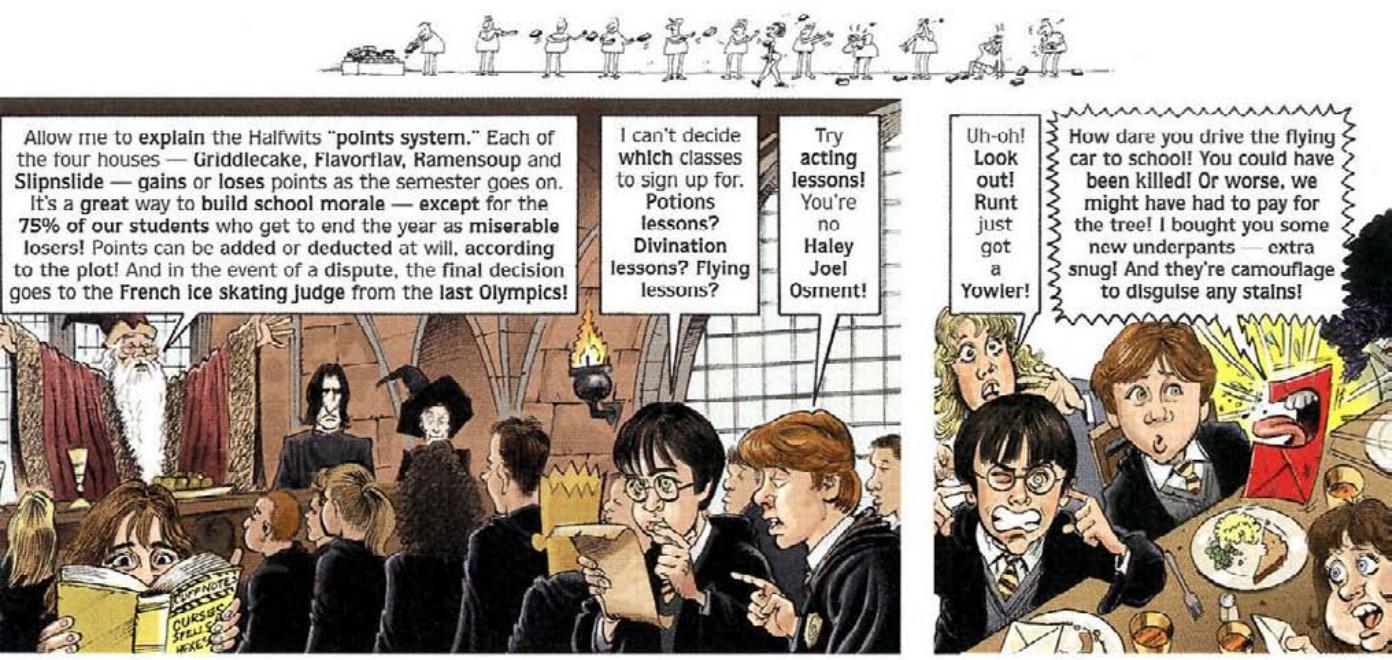
He's actually a normal preteen kid with normal concerns! Regular kids worry about getting zits and blackheads. Harry worries

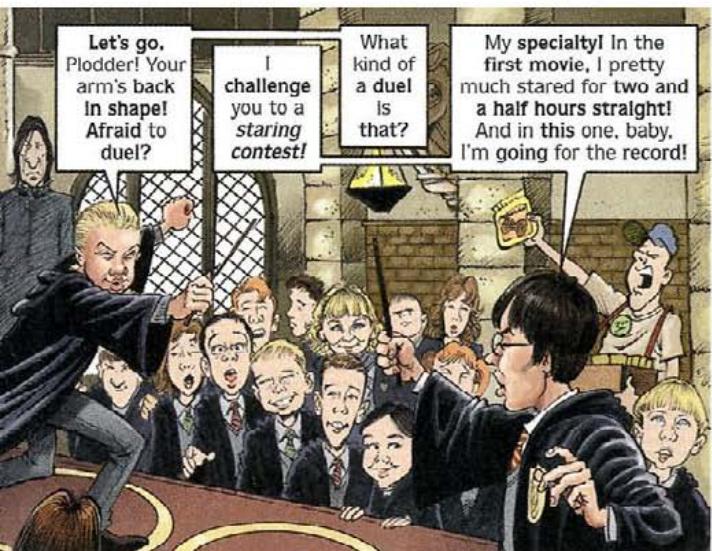
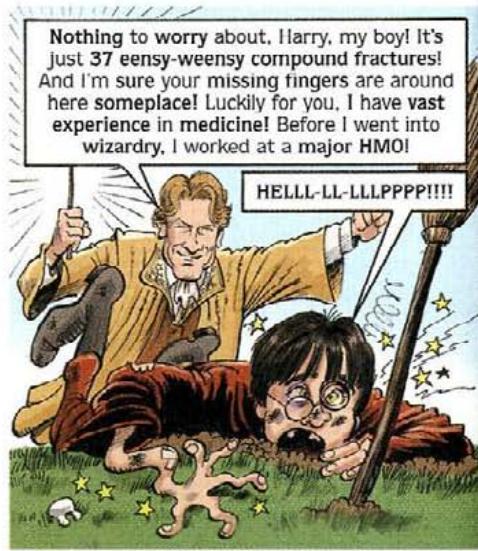
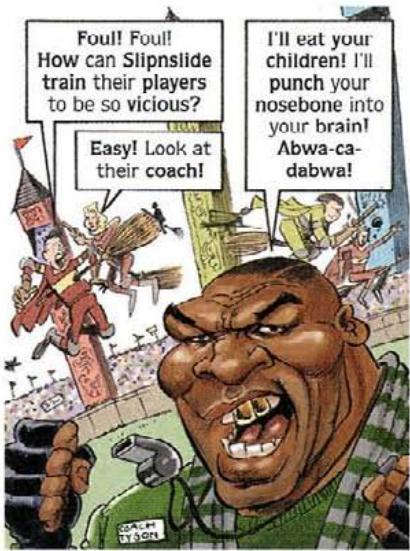
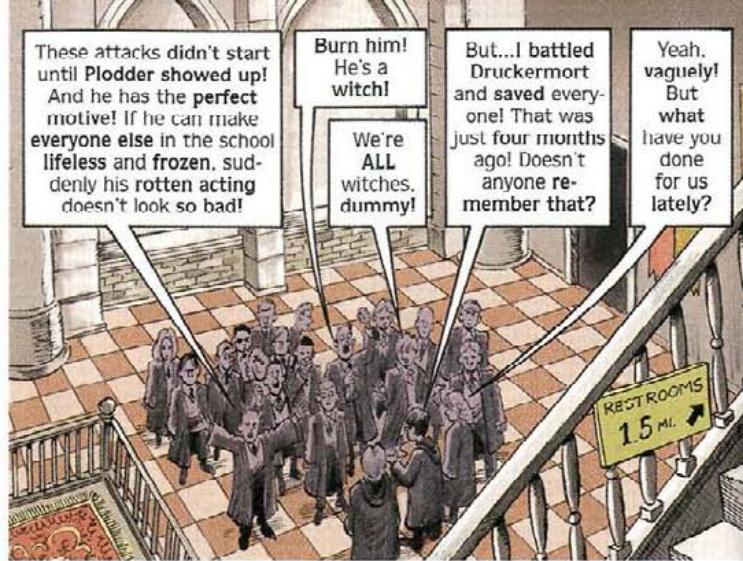
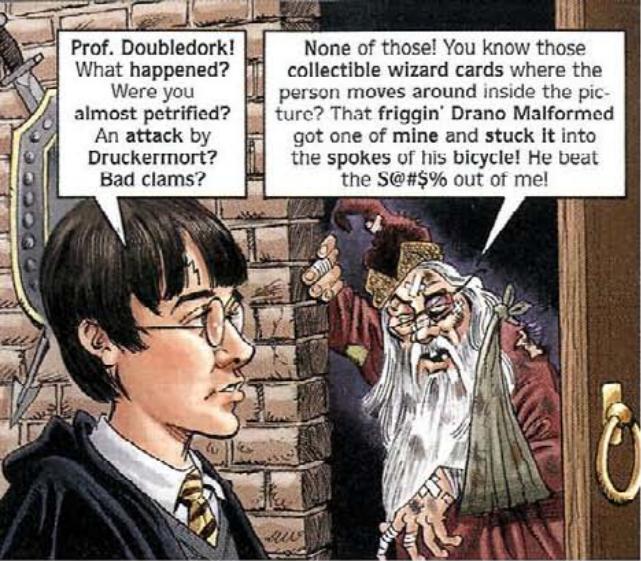
about the glowing lightning bolt scar on his forehead that he got the night his parents got whacked. Same basic concept!

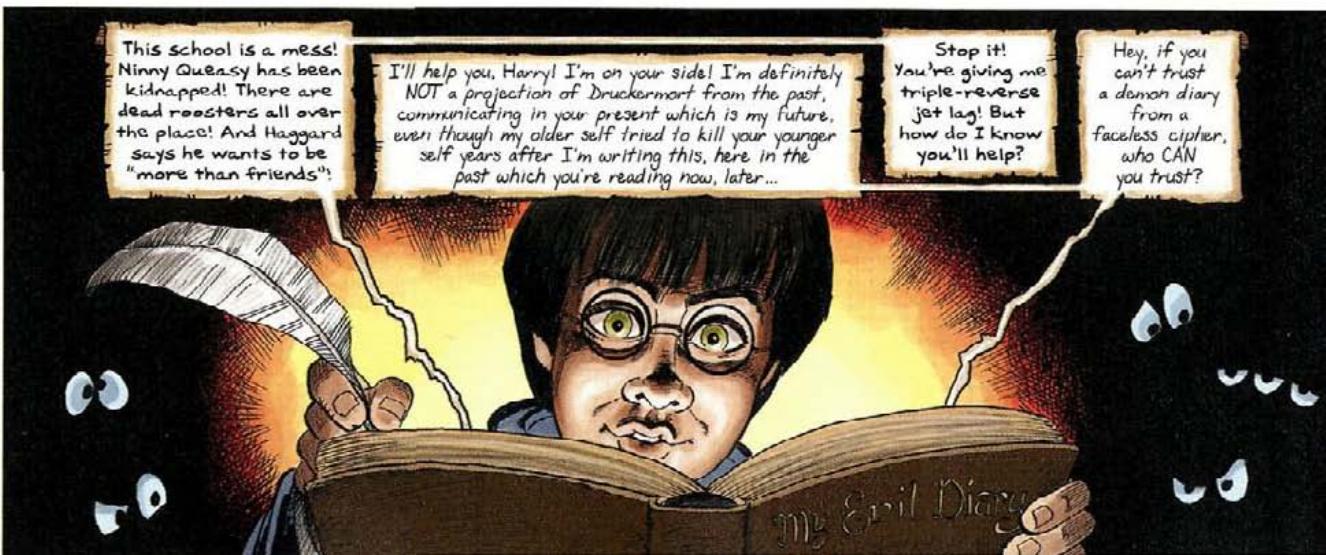
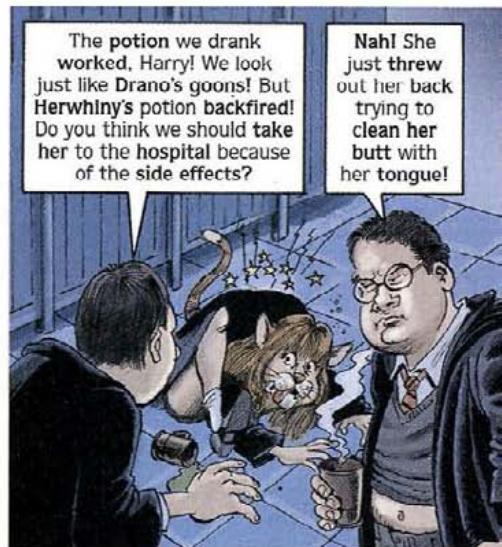
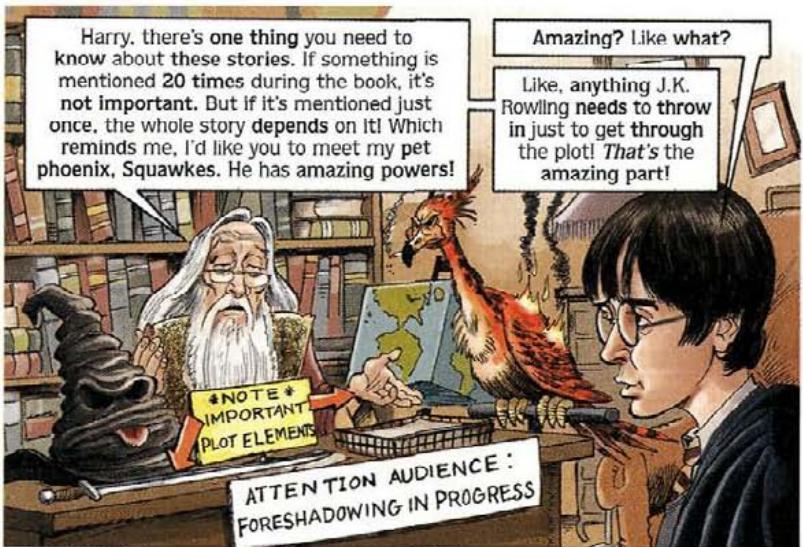
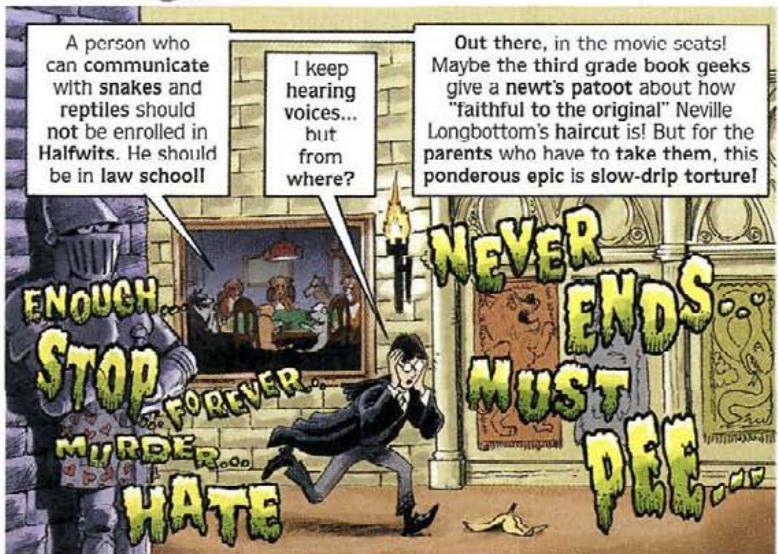
But there is something that makes him very different from everyone else. And it's *not* his mysterious past or unique talents. It's that he's

a 12-year-old who actually *likes* being at school! What a total wuss!





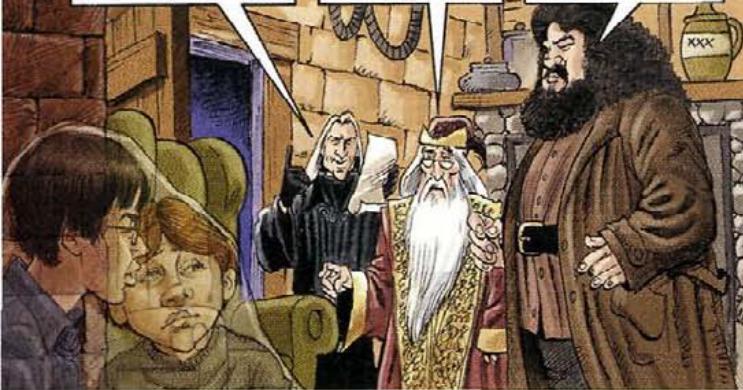




Tsk! What a pity you've both been suspended from Halfwits for endangering the lives of its secondary characters!

That's okay, Mr. Malformed! I could use a few months off to comb the split ends out of my hair!

While I'm away at prison, like, jus' be sure t' feed all o' my animals. Y' can feed half o' them t' the other half!



We wore my invisible cloak to sneak into the enchanted forest! And now we're being rescued from being devoured by 30 million talking spiders by a sentient flying car! Do you know what this means?

Yes! J.K. Rowling has officially run out of good ideas!

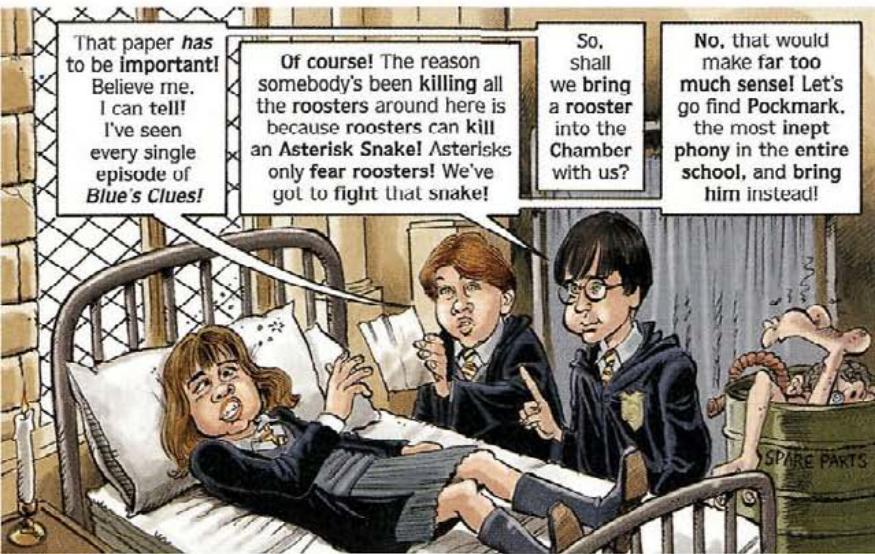


That paper *has* to be important! Believe me. I can tell! I've seen every single episode of *Blue's Clues*!

Of course! The reason somebody's been killing all the roosters around here is because roosters can kill an Asterisk Snake! Asterisks only fear roosters! We've got to fight that snake!

So, shall we bring a rooster into the Chamber with us?

No, that would make far too much sense! Let's go find Pockmark, the most inept phony in the entire school, and bring him instead!



To save your sister Ninny, we have to get past the killer snake! Down there!

This is the most deadly situation in the history of this bathroom. Or at least since the infamous bratwurst, sauerkraut and beans banquet of 1768!



Ugh! This place is filled with rubble, cobwebs, rat skulls and a huge empty snakeskin!

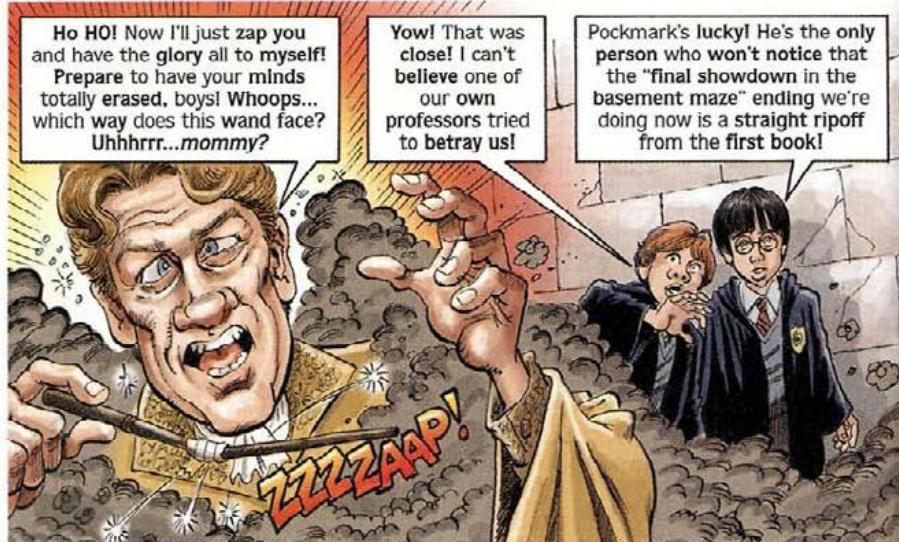
This is like the Osama bin Laden episode of *Cribs*!

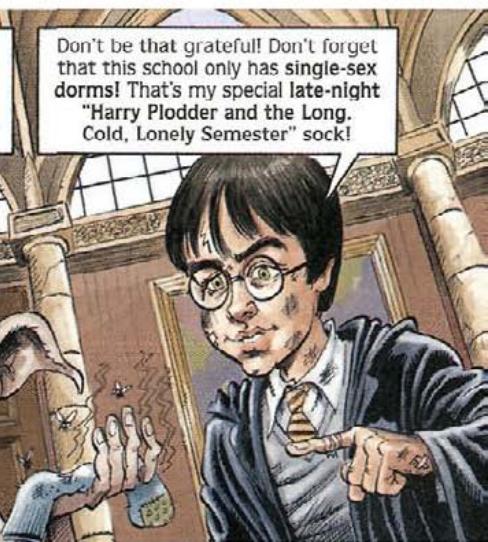
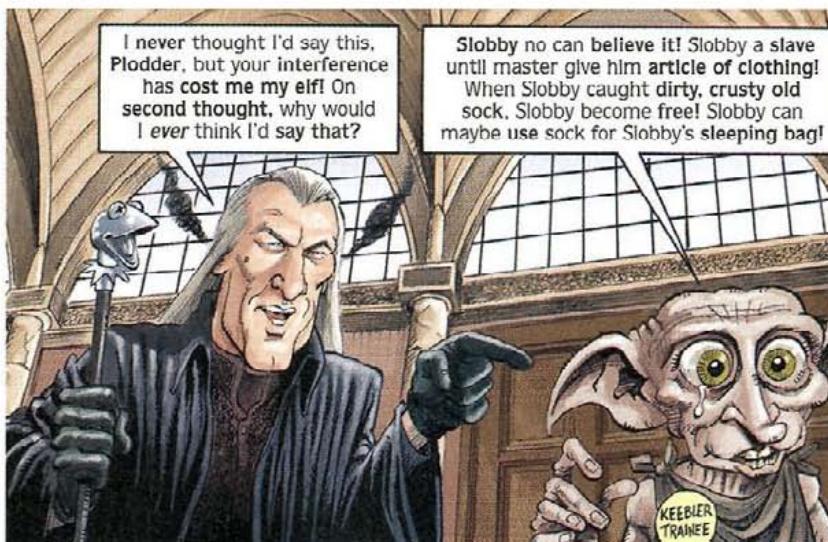
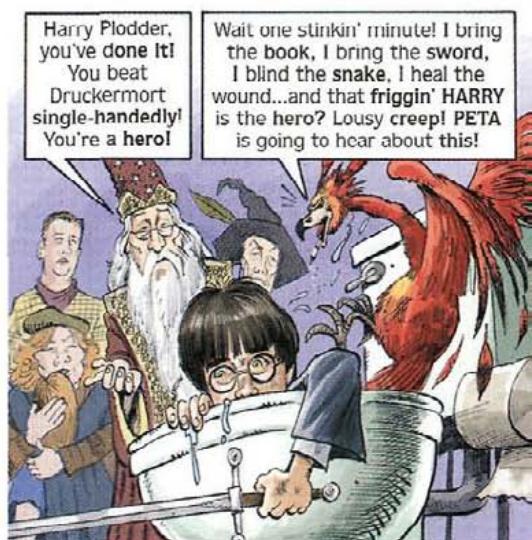
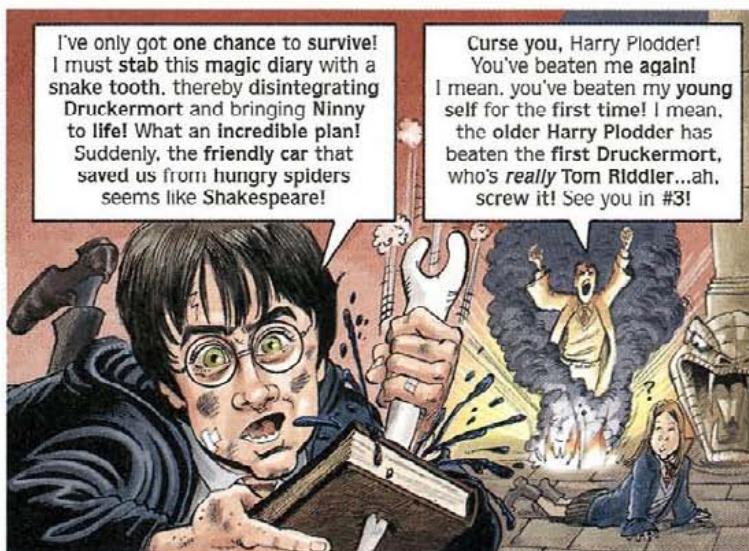
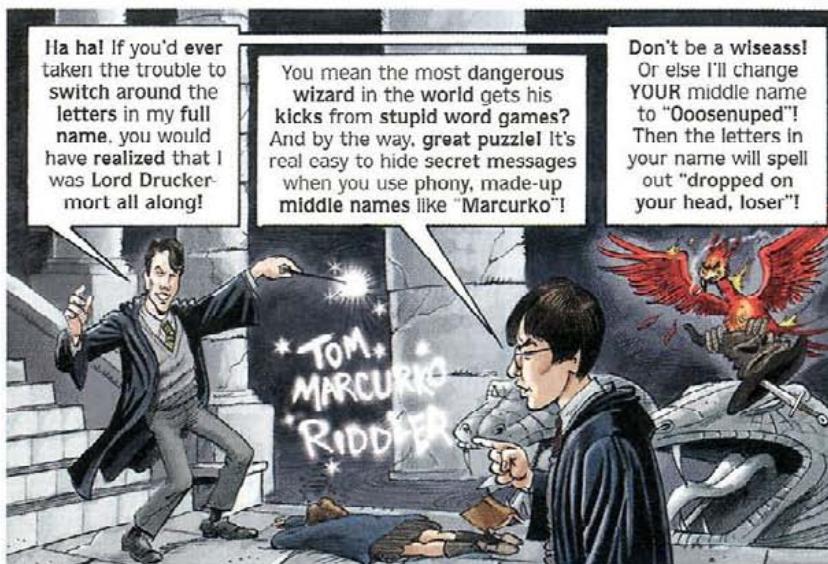


Ho HO! Now I'll just zap you and have the glory all to myself! Prepare to have your minds totally erased, boys! Whoops... which way does this wand face? Uhhrrr...mommy?

Wow! That was close! I can't believe one of our own professors tried to betray us!

Pockmark's lucky! He's the only person who won't notice that the "final showdown in the basement maze" ending we're doing now is a straight ripoff from the first book!

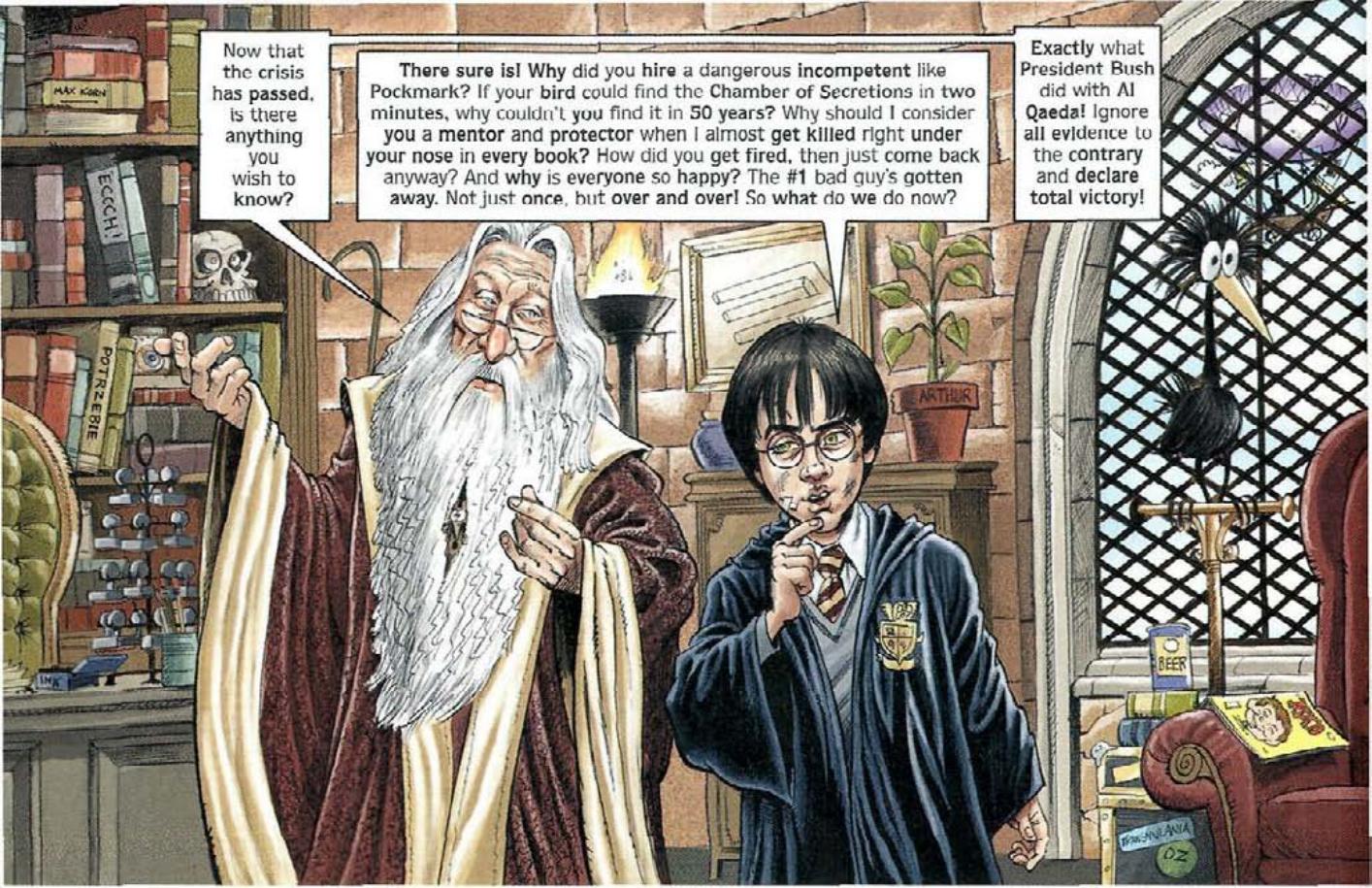




Now that the crisis has passed, is there anything you wish to know?

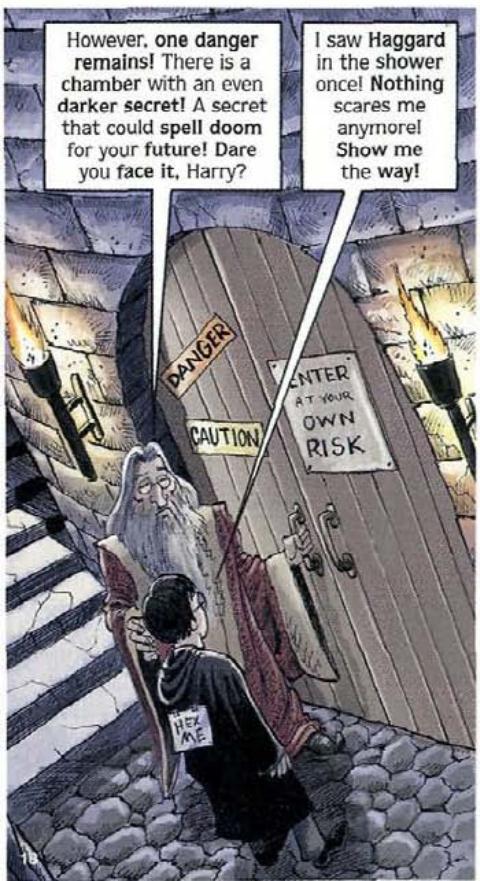
There sure is! Why did you hire a dangerous incompetent like Pockmark? If your bird could find the Chamber of Secrets in two minutes, why couldn't you find it in 50 years? Why should I consider you a mentor and protector when I almost get killed right under your nose in every book? How did you get fired, then just come back anyway? And why is everyone so happy? The #1 bad guy's gotten away. Not just once, but over and over! So what do we do now?

Exactly what President Bush did with Al Qaeda! Ignore all evidence to the contrary and declare total victory!

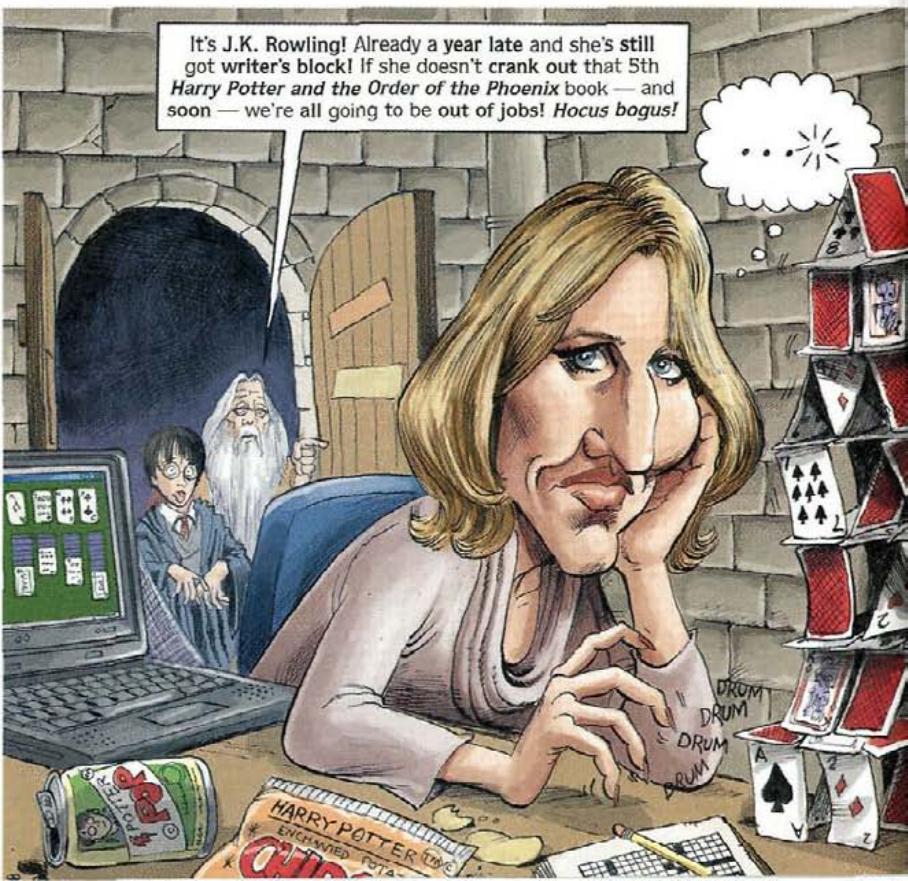


However, one danger remains! There is a chamber with an even darker secret! A secret that could spell doom for your future! Dare you face it, Harry?

I saw Haggard in the shower once! Nothing scares me anymore! Show me the way!

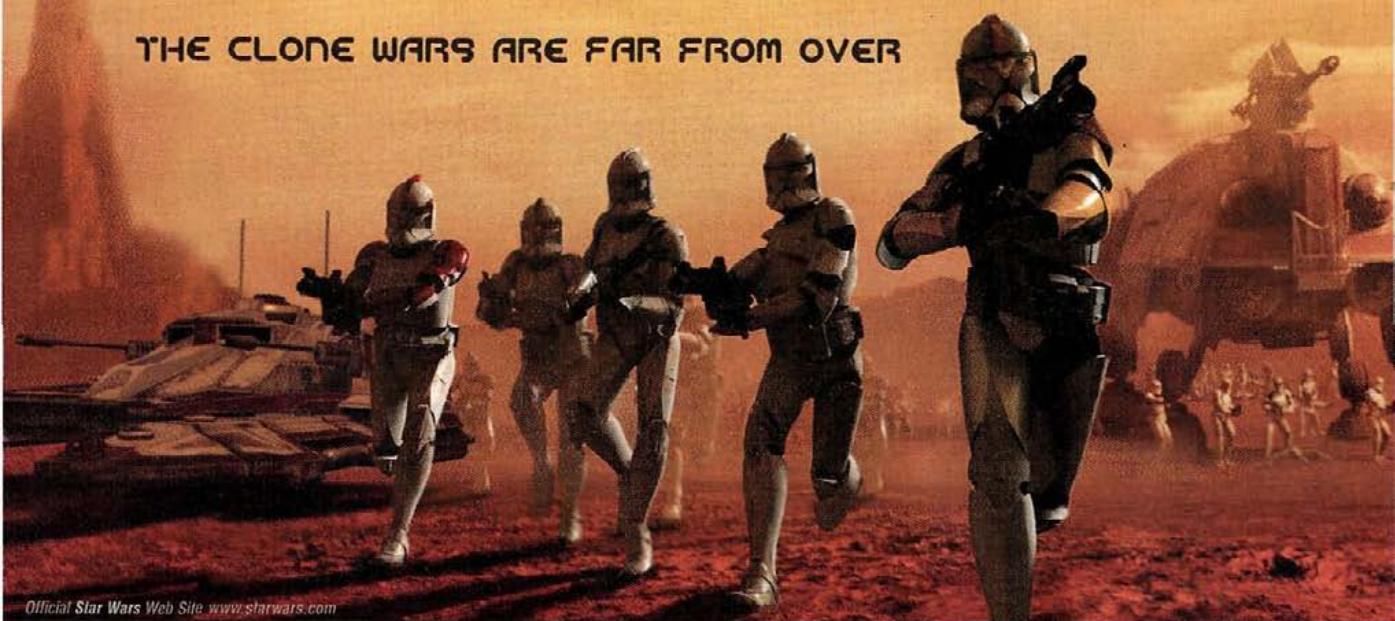


It's J.K. Rowling! Already a year late and she's still got writer's block! If she doesn't crank out that 5th Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix book — and soon — we're all going to be out of jobs! *Hocus bogus!*





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Violence

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Day after day, we hear of a new corporate scandal, along with fresh allegations of fraud and dishonest accounting practices. To save our readers the time and effort of plowing through article after article, MAD now wraps up the entire mess. Simply fill in the numbered blanks from the corresponding numbered lists, and you'll have MAD's...

# ALL-INCLUSIVE DO-IT-YOURSELF CORPORATE SCANDAL NEWSPAPER STORY

**12**

- prevent another Great Depression
- restore public confidence
- cancel Big Brother 3
- reunite Tom and Nicole
- slim down Rosie O'Donnell
- halt global warming
- shut up Ted Turner
- bring peace to the Maldives
- restore Topeka to its former glory
- end the side effects of Vioxx

**11**

- new regulations
- government watchdogs
- impeaching Dubya
- not landing on Park Place
- weekly high colonics
- penile implants
- Rogaine slurpees
- the public flogging of Martha Stewart
- adding eunuchs to the Supreme Court
- replacing the dollar with wampum

**1**

- financial experts
- the Wall Street Journal
- an SEC snitch
- Alan Greenspan's DNA
- Ted Williams' will
- a poll of Amish CPAs
- Allen Iverson's rap-sheet
- Ray Liotta's evil twin
- a Bantu torch song
- some guy named Karl

According to **1**,**3****4**

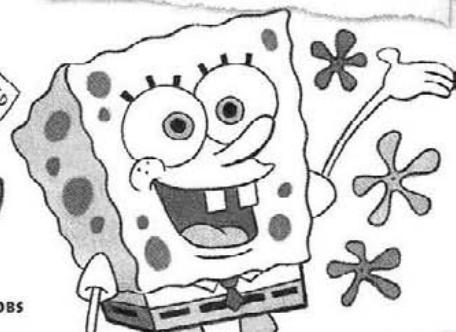
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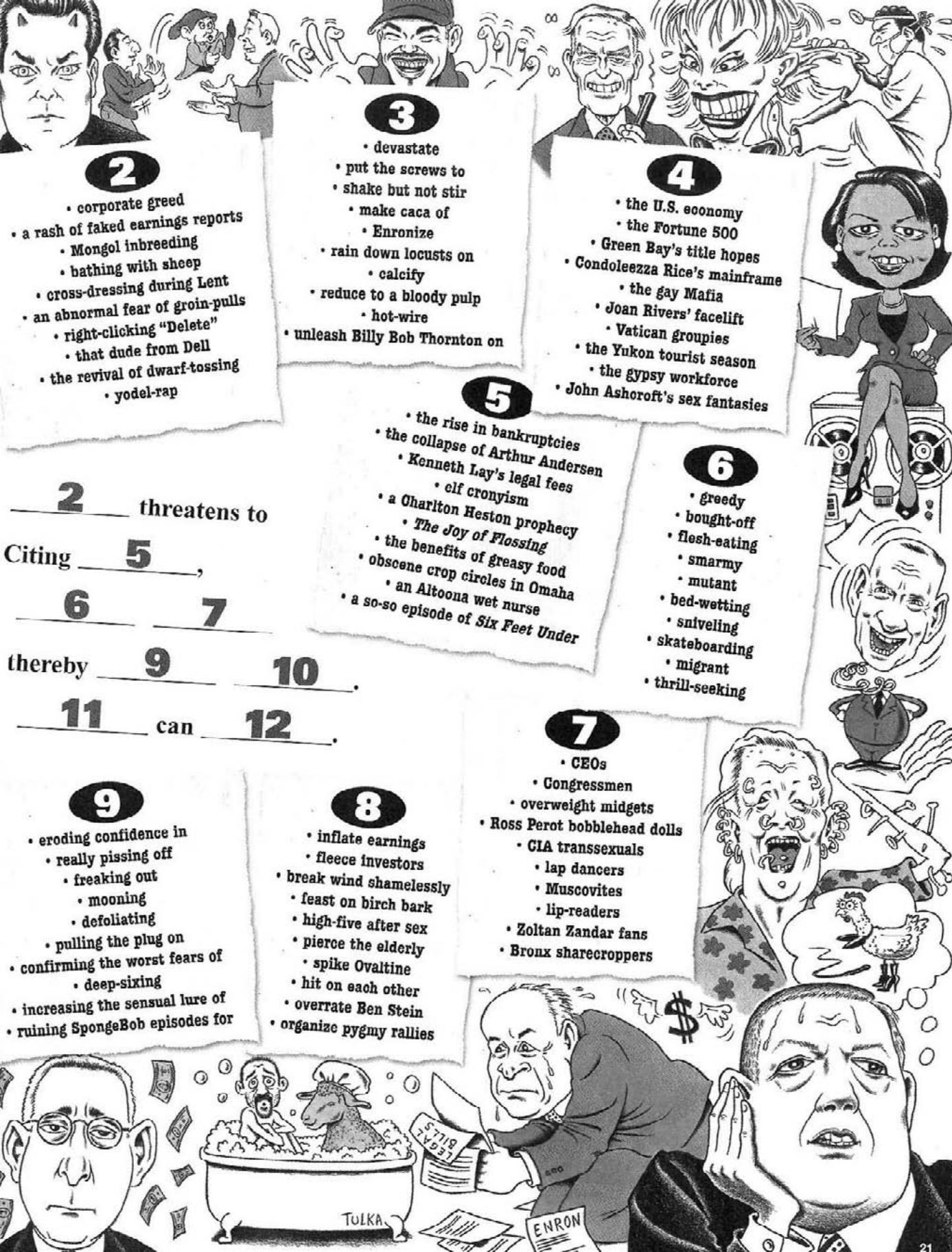
who **8**,

Experts warn that only

**10**

- the stock market
- the business community
- the Christian Coalition
- Grand Theft Auto III enthusiasts
- Jets fans
- a big part of the Sudan
- Native American casinos
- granola snorters
- yak hunters
- nude backpackers





**2**

- corporate greed
- a rash of faked earnings reports
- Mongol inbreeding
- bathing with sheep
- cross-dressing during Lent
- an abnormal fear of groin-pulls
- right-clicking "Delete"
- that dude from Dell
- the revival of dwarf-tossing
- yodel-rap

**2**

threatens to

Citing **5**,

**6**

**7**

**9** **10**.

**11**

can

**12**.

**9**

- eroding confidence in
- really pissing off
- freaking out
- mooning
- defoliating
- pulling the plug on
- confirming the worst fears of
- deep-sixing
- increasing the sensual lure of
- ruining SpongeBob episodes for

**3**

- devastate
- put the screws to
- shake but not stir
- make caca of
- Enronize
- rain down locusts on
- calcify
- reduce to a bloody pulp
- hot-wire
- unleash Billy Bob Thornton on

**4**

- the U.S. economy
- the Fortune 500
- Green Bay's title hopes
- Condoleezza Rice's mainframe
- the gay Mafia
- Joan Rivers' facelift
- Vatican groupies
- the Yukon tourist season
- the gypsy workforce
- John Ashcroft's sex fantasies

**5**

- the rise in bankruptcies
- the collapse of Arthur Andersen
- Kenneth Lay's legal fees
- elf cronyism
- a Charlton Heston prophecy
- *The Joy of Flossing*
- the benefits of greasy food
- obscene crop circles in Omaha
- an Altoona wet nurse
- a so-so episode of *Six Feet Under*

**6**

- greedy
- bought-off
- flesh-eating
- smarmy
- mutant
- bed-wetting
- sniveling
- skateboarding
- migrant
- thrill-seeking

**7**

- CEOs
- Congressmen
- overweight midgets
- Ross Perot bobblehead dolls
- CIA transsexuals
- lap dancers
- Muscovites
- lip-readers
- Zoltan Zandar fans
- Bronx sharecroppers

**8**

- inflate earnings
- fleece investors
- break wind shamelessly
- feast on birch bark
- high-five after sex
- pierce the elderly
- spike Ovaltine
- hit on each other
- overrate Ben Stein
- organize pygmy rallies

**1**

- the U.S. economy
- the Fortune 500
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- Joan Rivers' facelift
- Vatican groupies
- the Yukon tourist season
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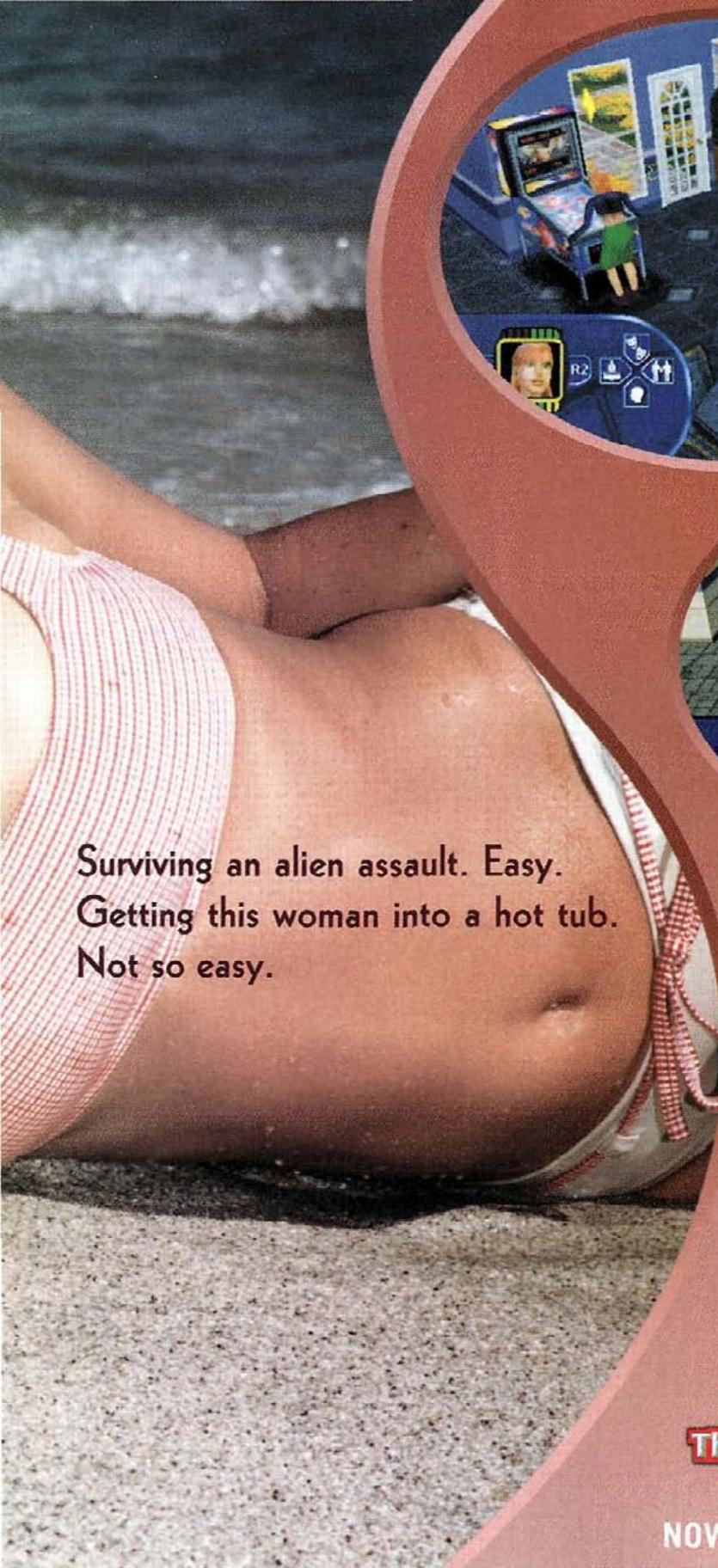
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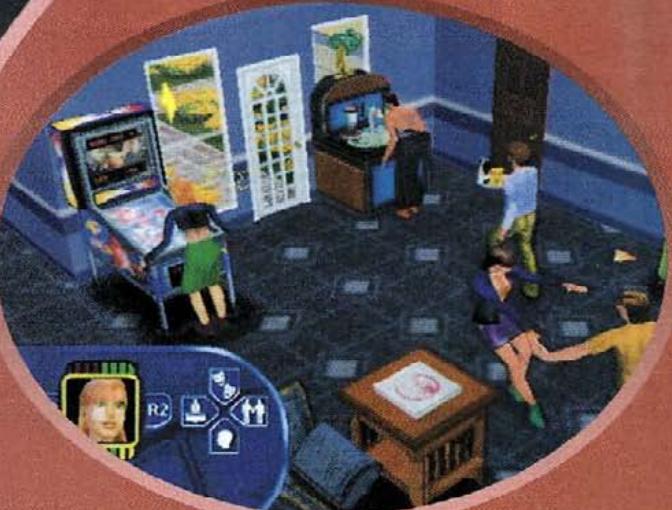
PlayStation®2



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Anyone who reads *Martha Stewart Living* magazine (and that number dwindles every day) knows that one page each month is dedicated to "Martha's Calendar," a day-by-day listing of Martha's projects, chores, jaunts and reminders. (If you don't read the magazine, now you know, too, Macramé breath!) We never had any reason to doubt the calendar wasn't true, but considering Martha's current insider trading problems, we can't believe her days are still filled with just making lavender potpourris and bottling persimmon chutney! We'd like to see a more accurate monthly schedule of her activities, something like...

## IF MARTHA'S

## calendar

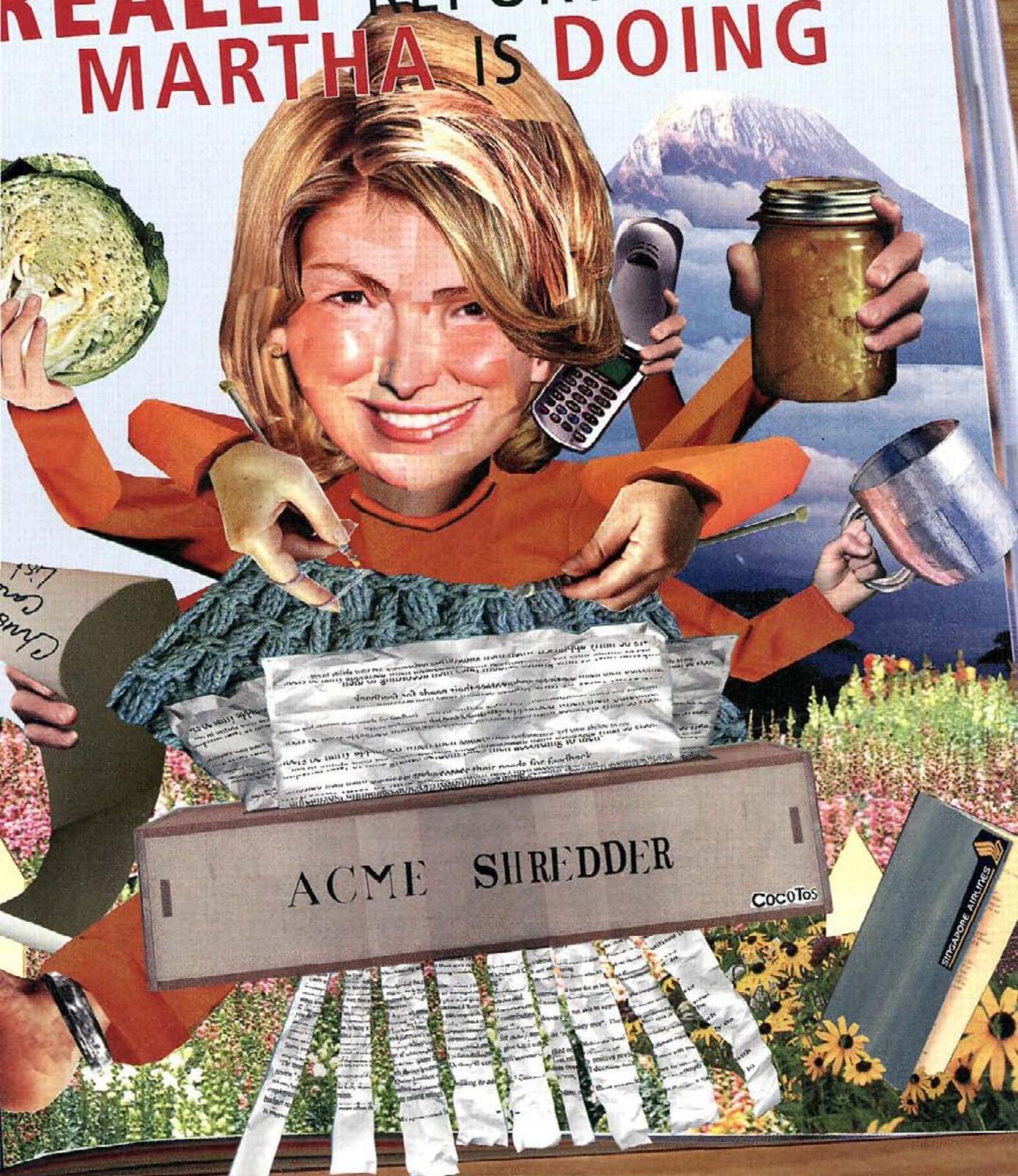


TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Can peaches and tomatoes; can can stockbroker whose assistant sang to feds	4 Plant hardy perennials that won't need maintenance for, like, 7-10 years, just in case	5 Move seedlings from garden to greenhouse; move assets from U.S. to Bermuda	6 8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance	1 Shred summer cabbage for coleslaw; shred documentation of other "perfectly legal" stock trades the SEC hasn't found out about yet
10 Put summer clothing into storage, for, like, 7-10 years, just in case	11 Call friend Anna Wintour — ask her to run story in <i>Vogue</i> promoting orange jumpsuits as new "in" fashion look	12 Organize and inventory collection of new alibis	7 Harvest favors from politicians who received large re-election donations into making this whole nightmare disappear	2 Take Sam Waksal off Christmas card list; Put SEC chairman (whoever it is) ON Christmas card list
17 Hire acting coach to teach looks of remorse, humility, etc.	18 To escape doldrums, fire random employee for no reason	19 Call Justice Department — offer to cater John Ashcroft's next birthday party FREE	8 Dig up Forsythia bushes and someone at Merrill Lynch willing to swear under oath that the ImClone stock sale was made on a previously arranged sell order	9 Knit a tea cozy large enough to hide under
24 Sunday brunch with friends — if there are any left	25 Scour flea markets for tin prison cups — practice drinking out of them	26 Get sized for ankle bracelet monitoring device, just in case	13 8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance	15 Research which countries do not have extradition treaties with U.S.
27 8:36 a.m. Court TV appearance	28 Thanksgiving (Not being celebrated this year)	21 Install subdued and tasteful track lighting in escape tunnel	22 Paint picket fence green or yellow or purple — ANY color that makes it look less like a cold, confining prison cell	16 Book flight to one of those countries
29 Spend day kicking self for being such a greedy idiot	30 Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro again — but this time stay there!			

## NOVEMBER



# REALLY REPORTED WHAT MARTHA IS DOING





ANGSTER'S PARADISE DEPT.

Join us as Monroe learns that just being yourself isn't all it's cracked up to be. It's...

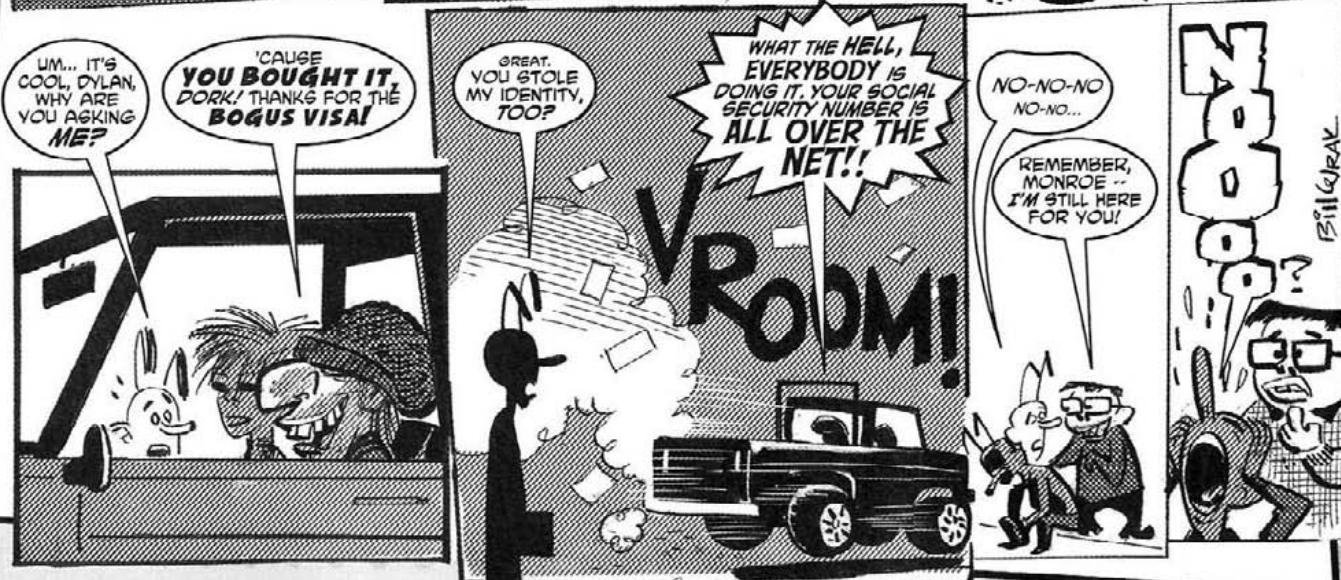
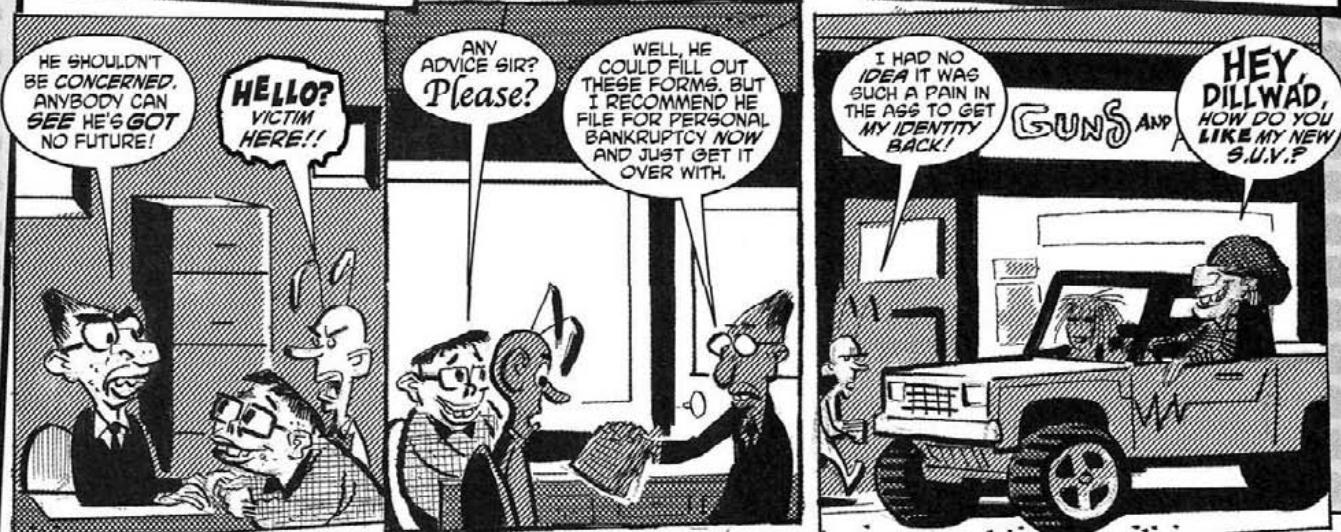
# Monroe

and...



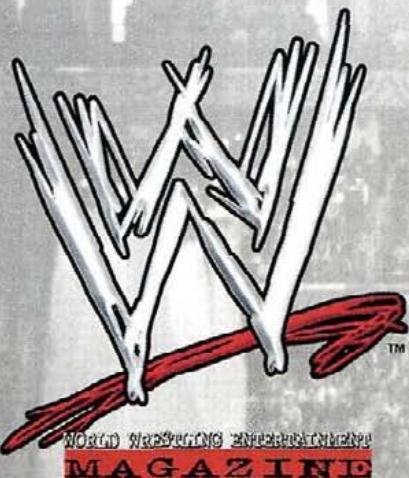
# IDENTITY THEFT





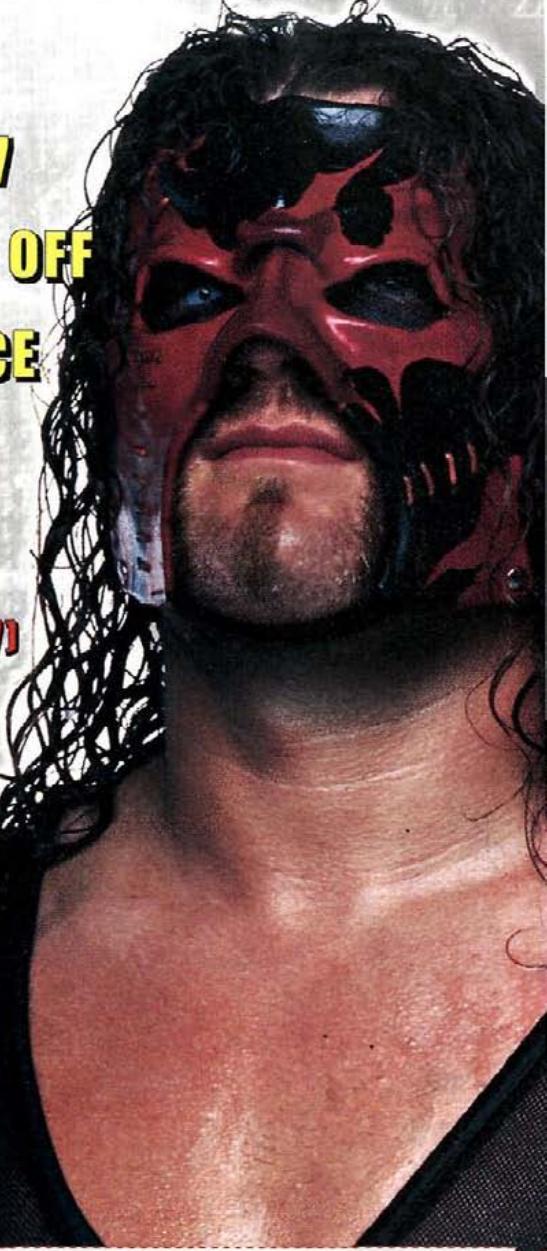
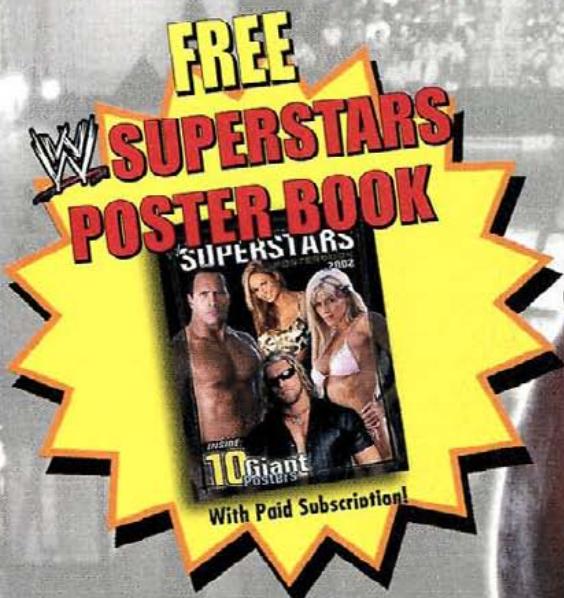
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AMERICA'S PHONIEST NEWS SOURCE

Front Page

IN THE NEWS

## Funny Hairdo, Muppet Reportedly Turns Otherwise Uninteresting Bush Photo "Wacky"

NEW YORK, NY — The additions of a funny hairdo and a Muppet have turned what many referred to as an uninteresting photo of President Bush into a hilariously "wacky" image. The original photograph, released last Monday, was downloaded from the official White House website. With the use of a standard computer graphics program, a bouffant hairdo was digitally added to his head. Pasted into the photo is an image of popular Muppet character Grover, who appears to be standing next to Bush.

"We made the photo so wacky that we almost didn't need to write our usual over-long and one-note gag news story to accompany it," laughed Bunion editor Tom Koehler.



Above: President Bush, seen here sporting a comically oversized woman's hairstyle while standing next to popular children's character Grover, was in fact standing alone and had a traditionally short, conservative men's hairstyle at the time the actual photo was taken.

"We kind of run this feature into OPINION

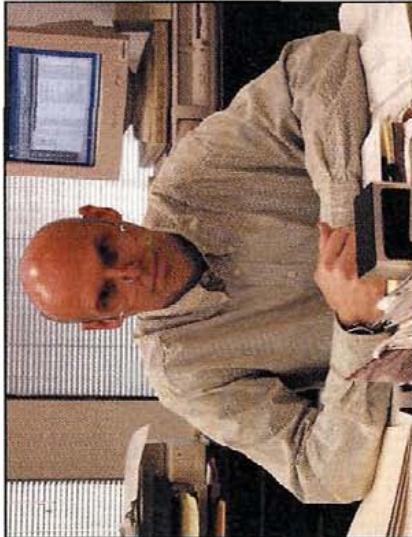
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OTHER NEWS

## Area Man Finds Headline Amusing But That's About It



Above: Legal assistant Ray Jeffries often finds the headlines amusing but the bodies of the articles lacking in substance. "The captions they run below the photos aren't much better," he says.

Jeffries noted that it's not the first time he's had this reaction and that he previously chuckled at headlines involving the aging pope, a kindergarten class bean sprout project and the Kool-Aid Man. "But basically it's all the same," he explains. "They shoot their wad with the headline and it's a lot of nothing after that." The 36-year-old considers himself a "fairly intelligent" person with a "reasonably good" sense of humor. "It's not that I don't get it. I can grasp subtlety. And I understand satire. But what more is there to say after you've led with, say, 'Ticketed Motorist Vows To Exact Revenge On Meter Maid With Caustic Barbs In Memo Line Of Check?' That's the whole gag. Anything more is mere repetition."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inconsequential

Everyday  
Occurrence

Covered With

Gravity

Unlikely Words, Phrases

Point-Counterpoint: Point-Counterpoint

We've Kind Of Run This Feature Into

# In Headline and Body of Story Make Some Articles Sorta Funny, Experts Say

ST. LOUIS, MO — A study issued by the Conference of American Journalism says that the simple act of using "a few well-chosen words can maybe turn a dry news story with, like, little humor potential, into one that's sorta funny. "It's a delicate balance," says panel spokesman Ted Aberline. "You've got to use a certain amount of standard news jargon but then every few lines, throw in a 'ringer.'

Experts note that you've totally got to watch the placement of the quotation marks as well, or you're screwed. "You definitely don't want to put your quotes around the incongruent word or phrase," Aberline explains. "That makes it look like you're quoting someone and that you, as the reporter, know the word wouldn't normally appear in that context in a standard newspaper article otherwise." According to the study, without the quotation marks, a really lame story can end up being pretty frickin' funny, and also way cool.

## CRAPshot

### A look at yet another rip-off of Letterman's Top Ten

## The Most Overused Themes On Our Website

1. Subject of article vaguely referred to as "Some Guy" in the headline
2. Offensive, sacrilegious news story featuring Christ as a normal person who just happens to live among us
3. Headline peppered with gratuitous curse words as the entire set-up and execution of a gag
4. News item about a well-known advertising character saying and doing things its corporate owners would not approve of
5. Typical advice feature attributed to an unlikely columnist who disregards the questions entirely and instead replies to each letter by expounding on his, her, or its area of expertise, literary style, or obsession
6. Thinly-veiled "humorous" take on a horrific tragedy done sooner after the actual event than good taste would dictate

# The Ground, If You Ask Me

You know, these debates were funny at first. But they've become very predictable. And here's why: Generally, the first viewpoint puts forth a reasonable, logical argument in favor or in support of something, anything, whatever. Fine. All straight lines. Very dry. That's the set-up. Then comes the opposing side and — zing! — it's completely nuts. While the first part is written by a person, the second part is written, we're supposed to believe, by a squirrel, or an appliance, or Jesus, or some crap. Okay, okay, I know that's not how it always is, but we've used this formula enough times that franky, even I'm a little sick of it. Sure, it was novel four years ago, but how 'bout we try something new, huh? Or just dump this format altogether.

## Oh, Come On! I'm An Egg Separator, For God's Sake! That Right There Is Funny!



by An Egg Separator

Look, I'm an inanimate object and I'm delivering the opposing viewpoint to your argument! Don't you get it? It's frickin' hilarious! I can't really talk or think, nor do I have the physical ability to put words on the page or computer screen. But that doesn't change the fact that here I am, arguing against your position and telling you that, yes, these debates are incredibly funny! Why? Because I'm a kitchen utensil, and not only do I have an opinion, but apparently it's such a strong opinion that I feel compelled to respond to you by totally flying off the handle! That's hilarious! A plastic dco-dad from your junk drawer actually getting upset! Instead of putting your lame-ass argument against the rants of another person, the rebuttal is being written by me, (once again) an EGG SEPARATOR. Too damn funny!

## EDITORIAL

Why Running An Editorial Attributed To Someone You Wouldn't Expect To Be Writing An Editorial On A Trivial Subject That Normally Doesn't Warrant An Editorial Is So Damn Funny Week After Week by Nelson Mandela



# Detachment

BOULDER, CO — An inconsequential everyday occurrence was covered today with the gravity and detachment normally associated with a serious, substantial news item.

Jim Grout, a one-hour photo service employee, got a particularly bad static electricity shock when touching his bedroom doorknob after shuffling back from the bathroom at approximately 2:37 this morning. "Son-of-a-bee, it really woke me up," Grout, 51, told reporters. "I was half-asleep, then zap! Talk about a rude awakening."

Despite the noise of the shock seeming "very loud" to Grout, his wife, Kay, 49, slept undisturbed through the ordeal. "I had no idea anything happened until he mentioned it at breakfast," she explained as though the incident were indeed newsworthy. Experts describe this phenomenon as a form of "irony." "A 'nothing' occurrence will be written about with all the unbiased objectivity and seriousness of a major event," notes Dr. David Jeschke, a legitimate-sounding person who in fact doesn't exist, "while important news will be covered as a human interest piece or incredibly conversationally."

While irony can be very effective, Jeschke notes, its overuse in some formats can become "terribly repetitious and one-note." He points to the popular online website...

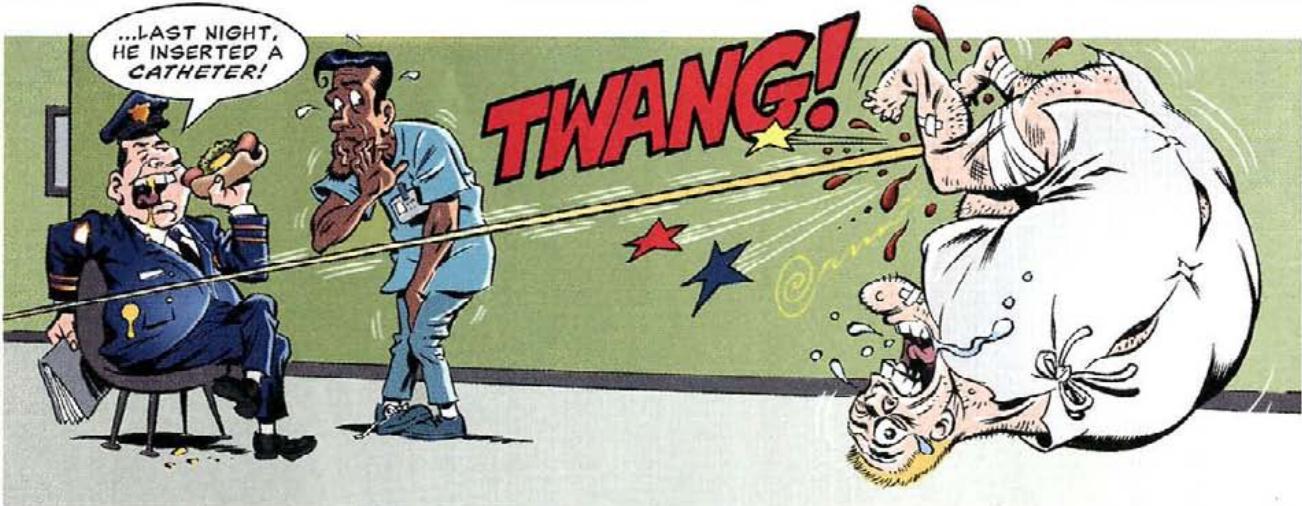
ARTIST: SCOTT BRICHER WRITER: SCOTT MAIKO PHOTOS: IRVING SCHILD & AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

[Full Text»](#)



FLEE CIRCUS DEPT.

# ONE FINE DAY IN THE HOSPITAL

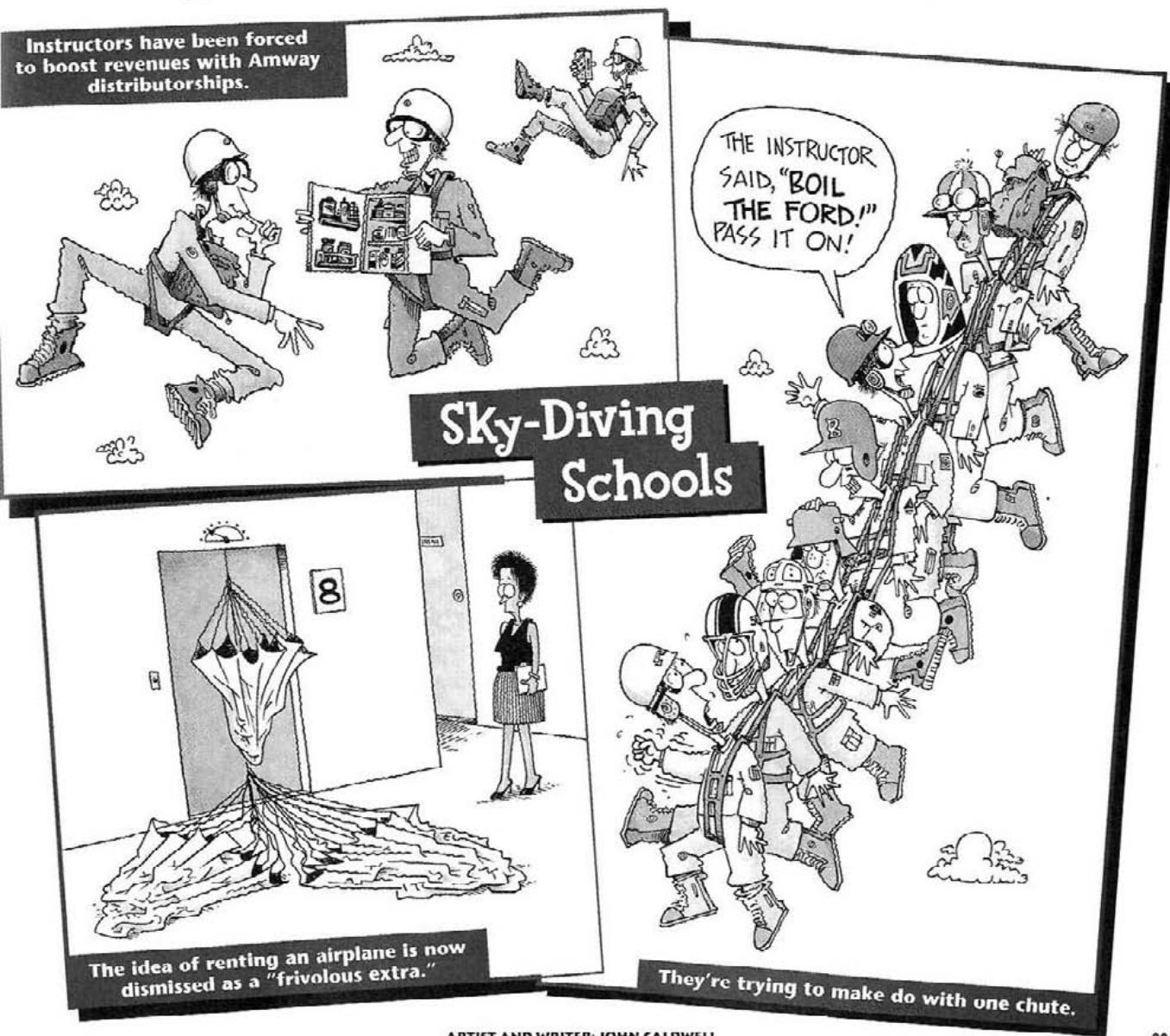




In economic terms, a recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth. For corporate America, this means belt tightening, personnel downsizing and salary freezing. But what, you may ask, is the toll on the small businessman? How is the average Mom and Pop operation riding the tide of this difficult business cycle? How the hell should we know? Who died and made us Lou Dobbs? It was all we could do to figure out...

# HOW THE ECONOMIC RECESSION IS AFFECTING CERTAIN FRINGE BUSINESSES

Instructors have been forced to boost revenues with Amway distributorships.



The idea of renting an airplane is now dismissed as a "frivolous extra."

They're trying to make do with one chute.

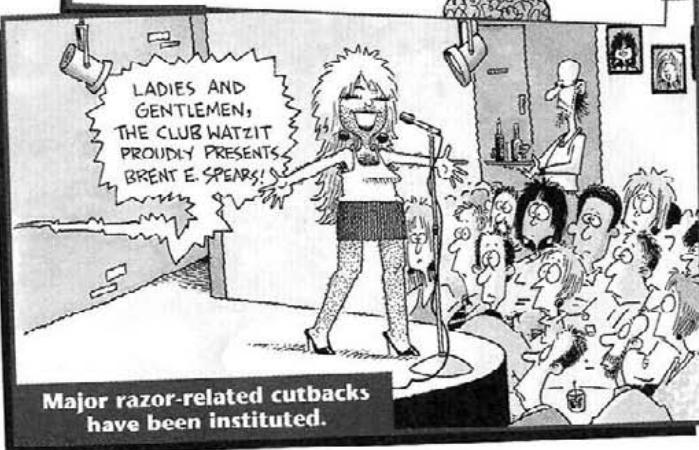
# HOW THE ECONOMIC RECESSION IS AFFECTING CERTAIN FRINGE BUSINESSES

## The Mob

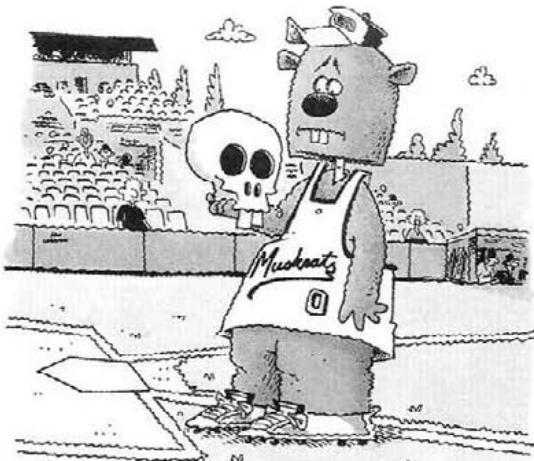
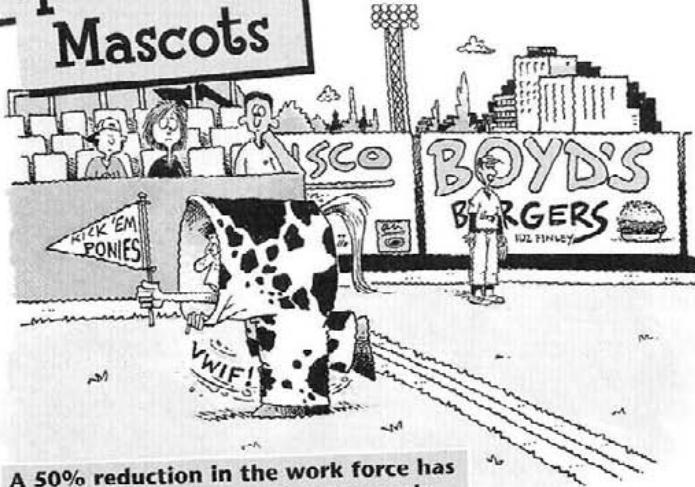


## Professional Drag Queens

Performers have begun to stuff their bras with cheap, highly combustible Third World material.



## Sports Mascots



No longer able to afford the health insurance necessary to perform physical comedy, between-inning Shakespeare soliloquies have become common.



Bit by bit, costumes are being sold on eBay.

## Circus Folk



TADAAAAAA AH!  
Passenger numbers have been drastically cut in an effort to improve clown car gas mileage.



Impoverished clowns have been reduced to buying no-frills brand seltzer, which is frequently flat.



The death-defying high wire guy supplements his income by taking in laundry.

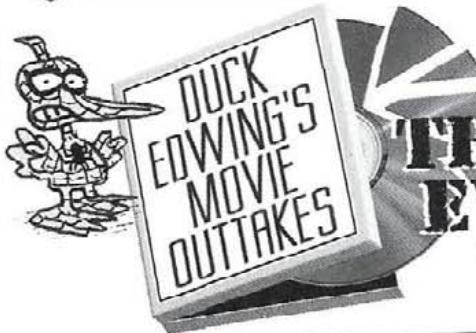
ALSO  
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COLLECTOR'S DVD  
GIFT SET INCLUDES

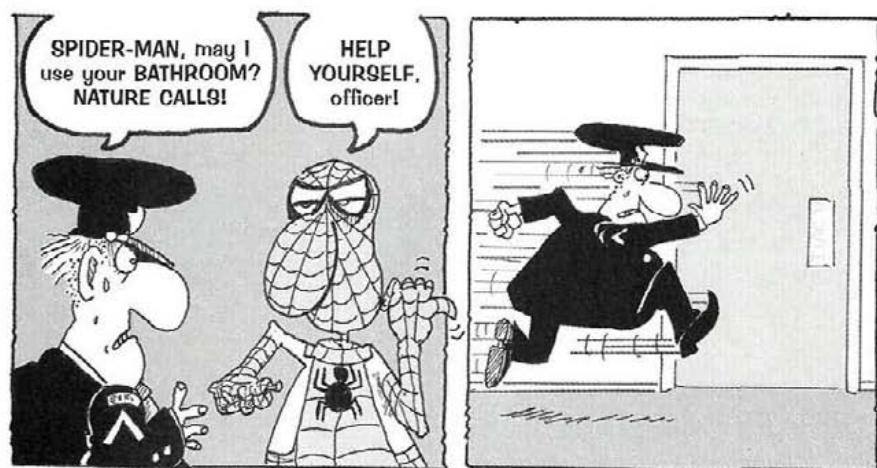
- The 4-Disc Platinum Series™ Special Extended DVD Edition
- Collectible Argonath Bookends Sculpted by the Film's Visual Effects Artists
- Special Edition *National Geographic* Beyond the Movie DVD with Additional Featurettes
- Exclusive Decipher Trading Cards
- AND MORE!

WEB-STINGER DEPT.



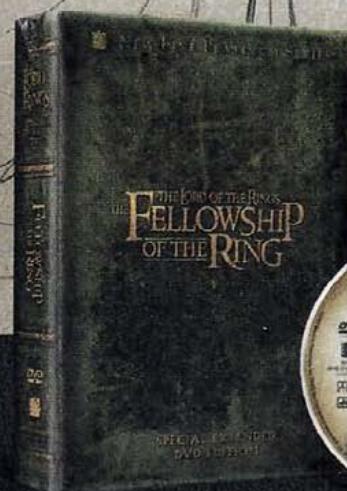
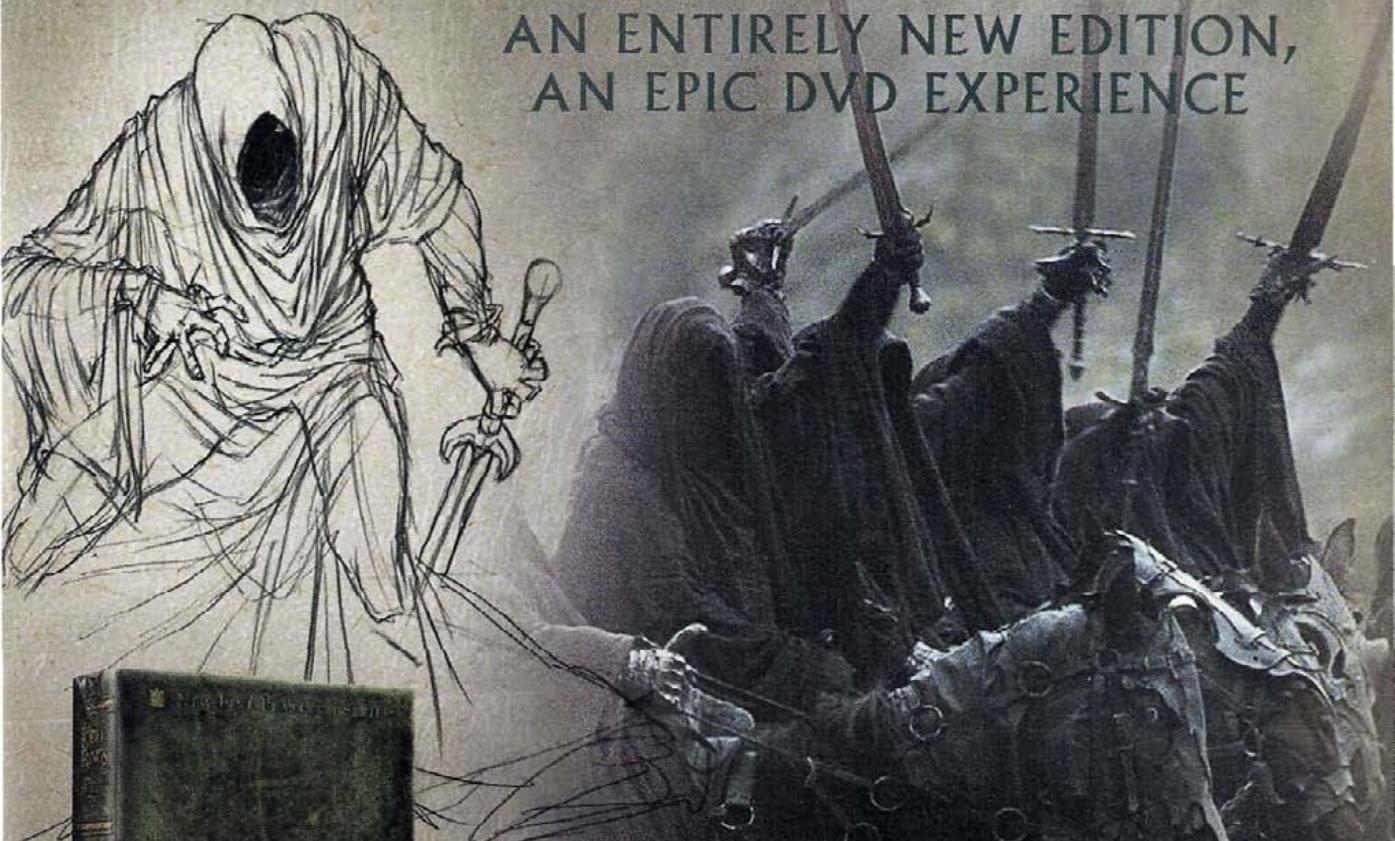
# SCENES SO BAD THEY DIDN'T EVEN MAKE THE DVD

THIS MONTH: SPIDER-MAN



# THE LORD OF THE RINGS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

AN ENTIRELY NEW EDITION,  
AN EPIC DVD EXPERIENCE



## — 4-DISC PLATINUM SERIES™ — SPECIAL EXTENDED DVD EDITION

Not Seen in Theaters, This Unique Version of the Film Features Over 30 Minutes of New and Extended Scenes Added by the Director and 2 Discs of ALL-NEW Bonus Features, Including Multiple Commentaries, Behind-the-Scenes Documentaries, Storyboards, Interactive Maps and More!

ALSO AVAILABLE: SPECIAL EXTENDED VHS EDITION  
With Bonus Featurette and Trailer for *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*™

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PG-13  
EPIC BATTLE SCENES AND SOME SCARY IMAGES  
Supplemental material not rated.



AMERICA ONLINE KEYWORD: Lord of the Rings

[www.lordoftherings.net](http://www.lordoftherings.net)

[www.newline.com](http://www.newline.com)



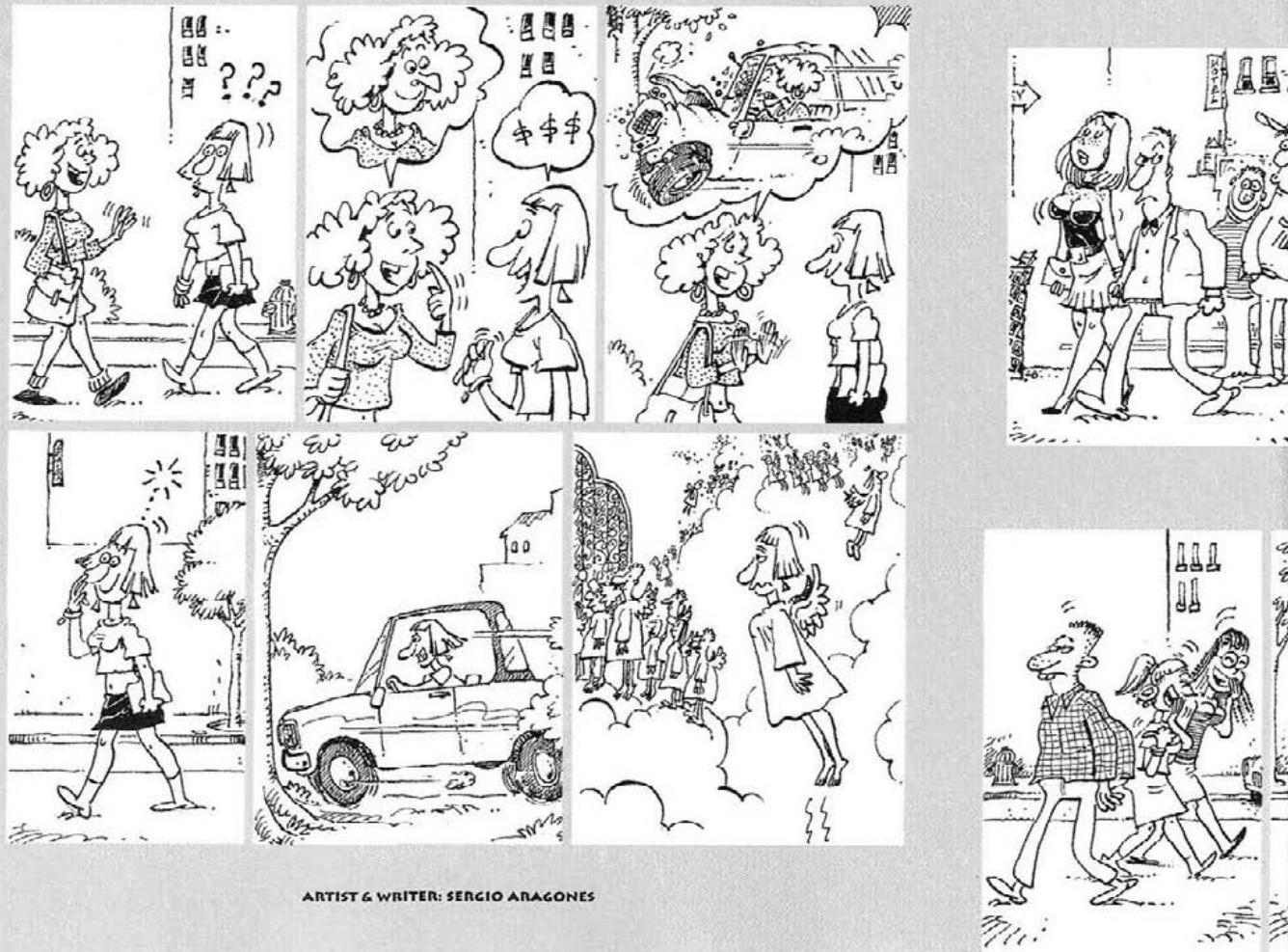
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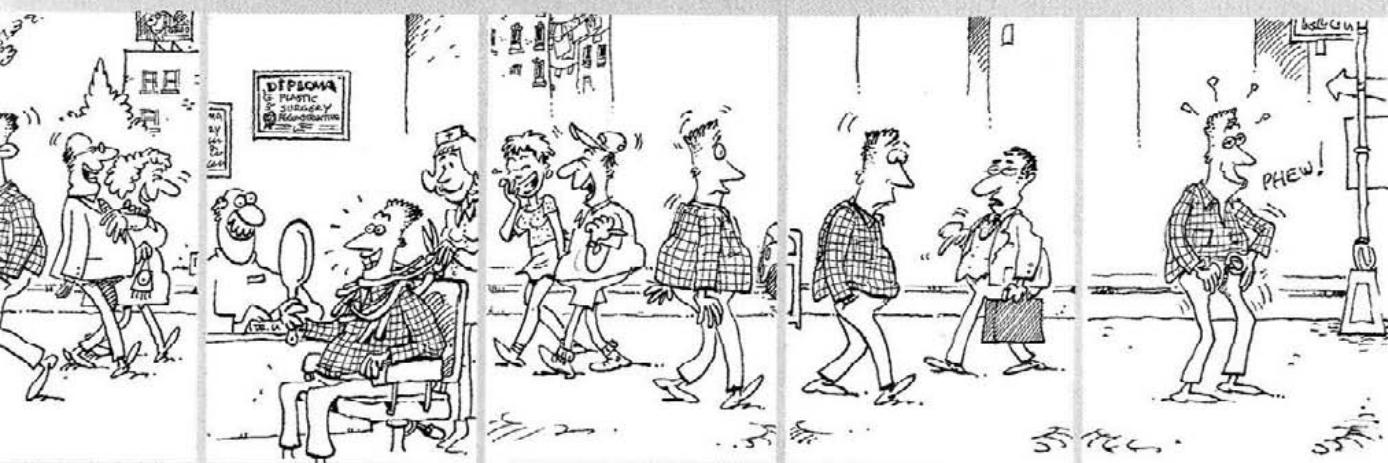
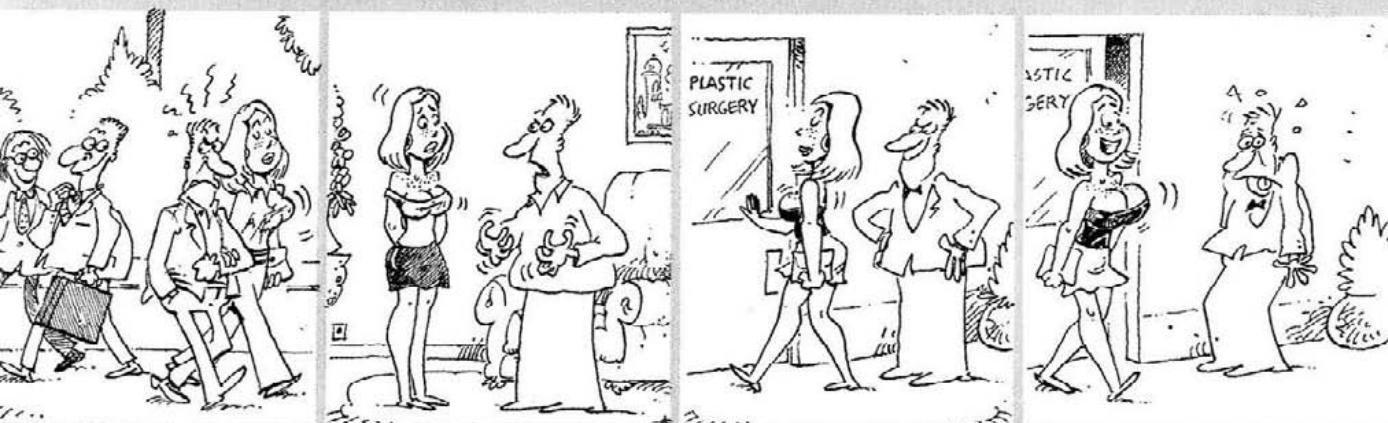
SERGE-IN GENERAL DEPT.

# ANOTHER MAD LOOK

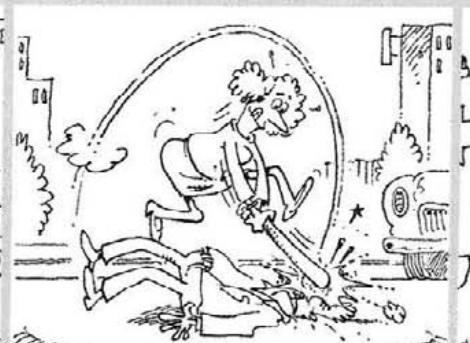


ARTIST & WRITER: SERGIO ARAGONES

# AT PLASTIC SURGERY









## CROP CIRCLE JERKS DEPT.

It's easy to make a wildly entertaining summer blockbuster! Take a thrilling script, add a captivating leading man, throw in some creepy crop circles and—bamboo! — you've got a hit! But, what if the story is the umpteenth knock-off of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*? And what if your star looks like he just woke from a 14-month nap? And what if the crop circles were lame after the 100th preview? Then you've got problems — and the studio's got nothing but a 2-hour dud filled with their painfully failed...

# desip

I keep waking up in the middle of the night with a terrible feeling something is wrong. It's almost as if I have a *Sixth Sense* that something bad is happening in my corn-fields! I've been so edgy since my wife died. I blame God for taking her, but I suppose the guy in the truck who mowed her down didn't exactly help! When she passed on, I decided there is no God!

That's when I left my position as Minister at Saint Dubious!

When my brother lost his wife, he went into a deep depression, so I moved up here to be with him. Since I got here, a big problem's developed. His kids seem to like me more than him! I guess it's because I pay more attention to them, and that I care enough about them to learn their first names! I'm a touch depressed, too. I've been unable to find employment in my specialized field of "failed baseball players"! I was a star slugger, then one day my baseball career was suddenly over. I guess a 6-foot, 24-year-old weighing 200 pounds can fool Little League officials for only so long! Damn!

We woke up this morning and found these huge designs in our cornfield. I told my dad I thought God did it. My dad said God probably did do it, because God has plenty of time on his hands to screw around, now that he no longer chooses to answer people's prayers!

I HATE CORN...



When the voices told me "build it and they will come," I thought they meant fans, not aliens!

It's true! When you're near death, your life flashes before your eyes. I see that lonely farmhouse my husband made me move into, a million miles from civilization. I see me watering a hundred acres of corn with a bucket. Wow, even my flashback seems dreary! Maybe I should thank the guy who drove the truck that hit me and got me out of this rural hellhole!

Of all the bad luck! I ran down the minister's wife! Why did that have to happen? God is going to take vengeance on me! Why couldn't I have been lucky and run over the wife of an atheist!

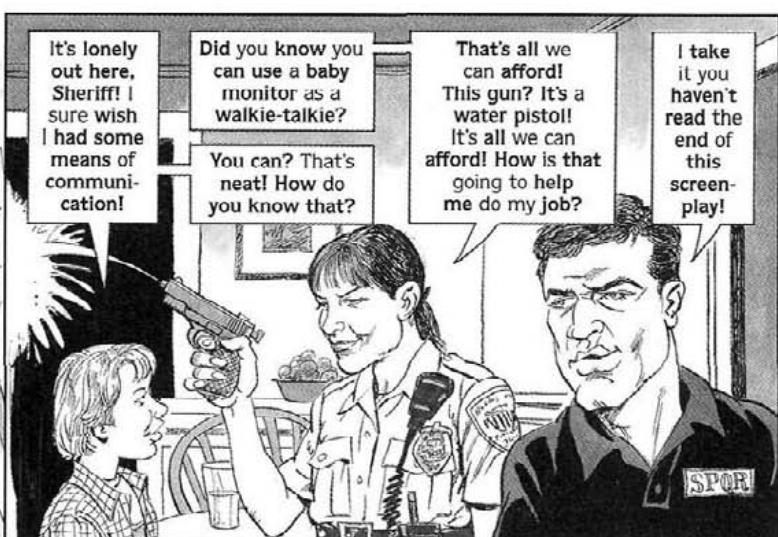
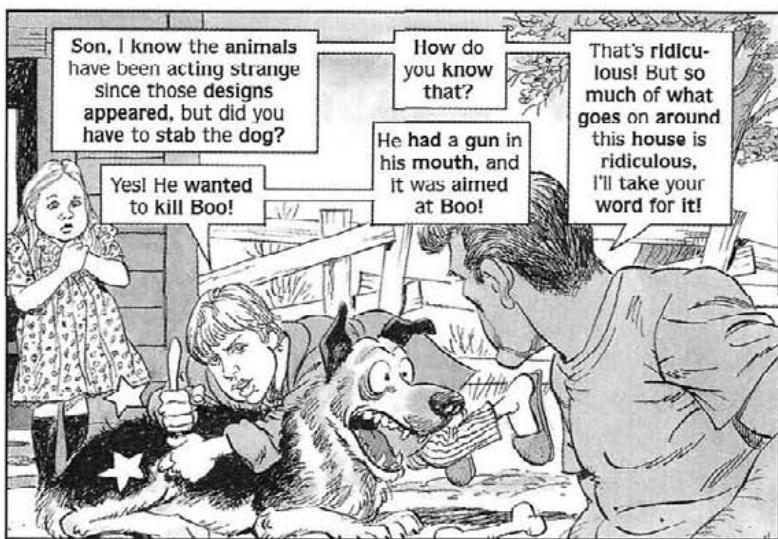
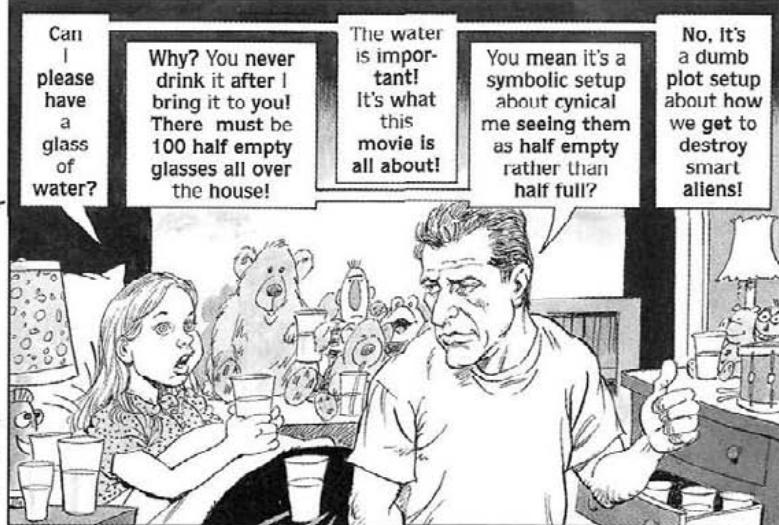
SILLY PLAYS  
CORN'S KRISPS

**n s**

It's true! My daddy is quite mad at God. I know because of the prayer he taught me to say when I go to bed: "Now I lay me down to sleep, not that you give a flying @#\$% about it!" I miss my mommy, but I still talk to her. She doesn't answer me, because she's dead. I talk to my daddy, too. He never answers me, either. I'd like to know what *his* excuse is!



Looking at these strange crop circles in the cornfields raises quite a few weird questions about this farm and the family that owns it! Like, how can they grow acres and acres of corn when they don't even own a tractor? Think about it! Have you seen one? I haven't even seen a rake or a hoe! Hell, no one has even seen them eat an ear of corn! It's weird, I tell you! Speaking of corn, let's get on with our story...



I'm trying to watch TV, but they're showing the same program on every station!

I know, honey, but that's what TV has come to! Not a shred of originality!

No, I mean exactly the same show on every station!

That's sure gonna make life easy for the Nielsen Ratings people!



With crop circle sightings reported around the world, the question is, how can so many acres be perfectly leveled without the apparent use of machinery? Crop circle expert, Professor Michael Sommers, how do you answer that?

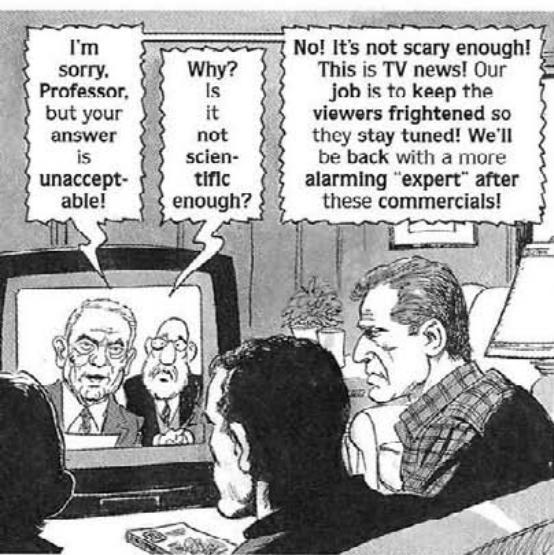
Nowadays, when people see a field of corn, they wonder if there are any aliens in it! By the hundreds, they roam, looking! They don't find any aliens! They leave! Gone! But from the air — hey, a new crop circle!



I'm sorry, Professor, but your answer is unacceptable!

Why? Is it not scientific enough?

No! It's not scary enough! This is TV news! Our job is to keep the viewers frightened so they stay tuned! We'll be back with a more alarming "expert" after these commercials!

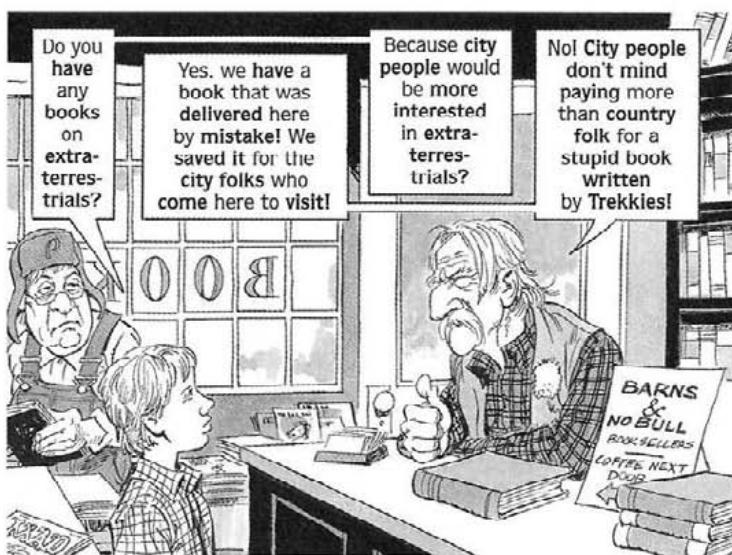


Do you have any books on extraterrestrials?

Yes, we have a book that was delivered here by mistake! We saved it for the city folks who come here to visit!

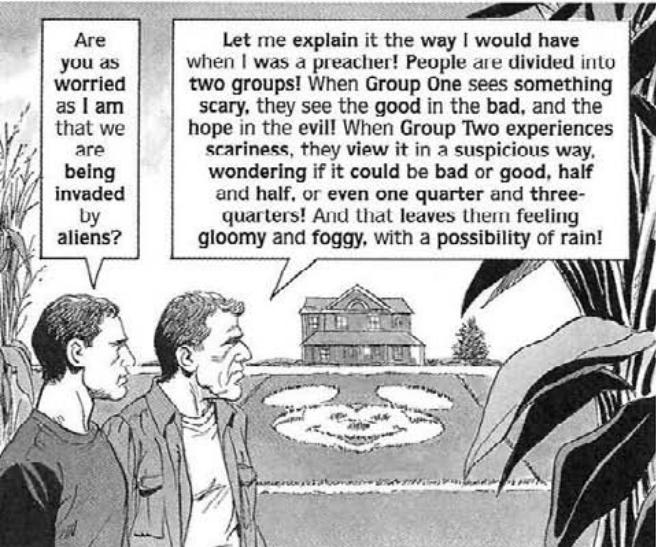
Because city people would be more interested in extraterrestrials?

No! City people don't mind paying more than country folk for a stupid book written by Trekkies!



Are you as worried as I am that we are being invaded by aliens?

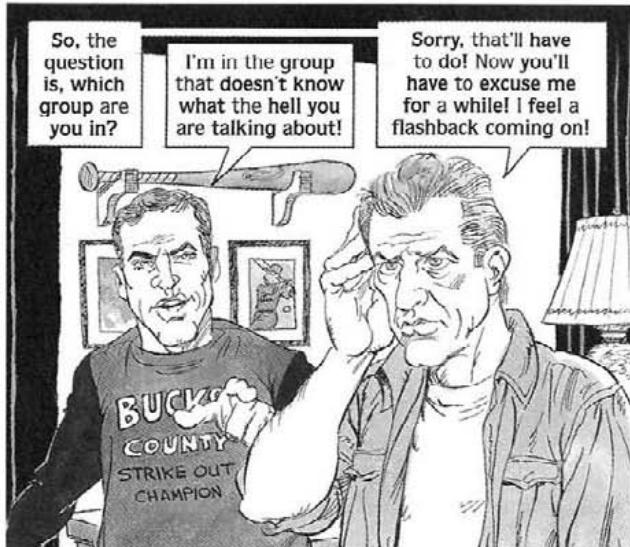
Let me explain it the way I would have when I was a preacher! People are divided into two groups! When Group One sees something scary, they see the good in the bad, and the hope in the evil! When Group Two experiences scariness, they view it in a suspicious way, wondering if it could be bad or good, half and half, or even one quarter and three-quarters! And that leaves them feeling gloomy and foggy, with a possibility of rain!

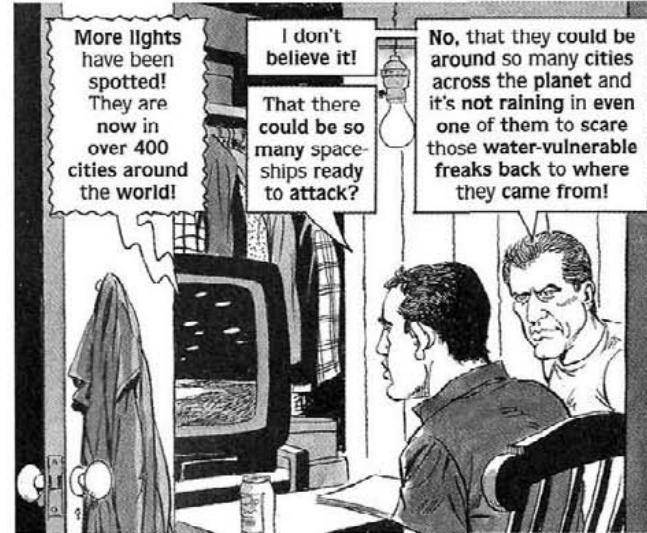
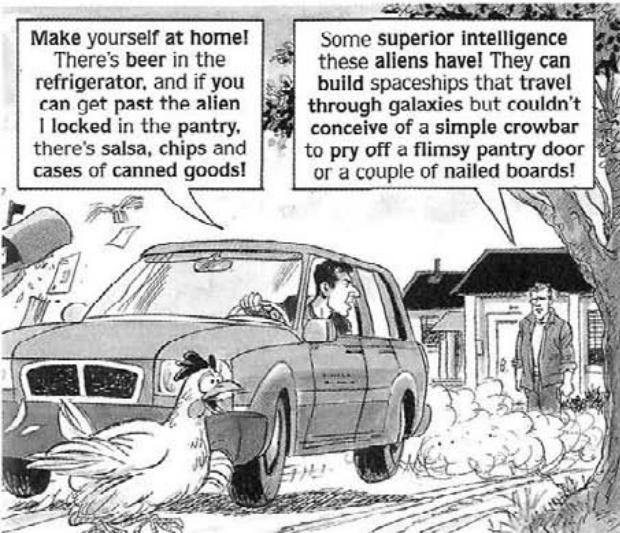
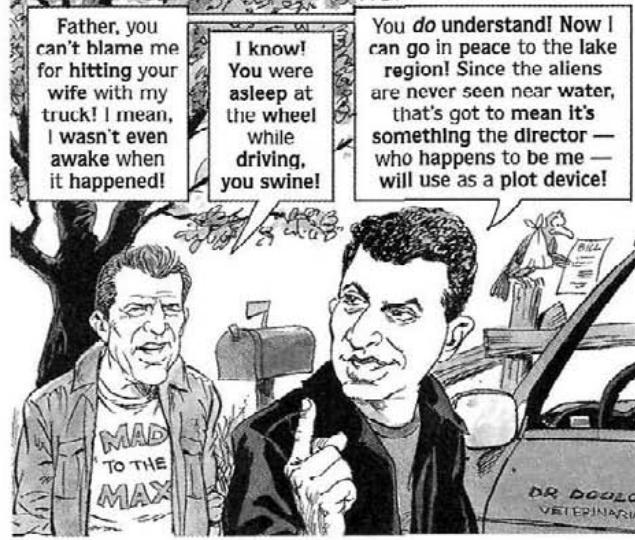
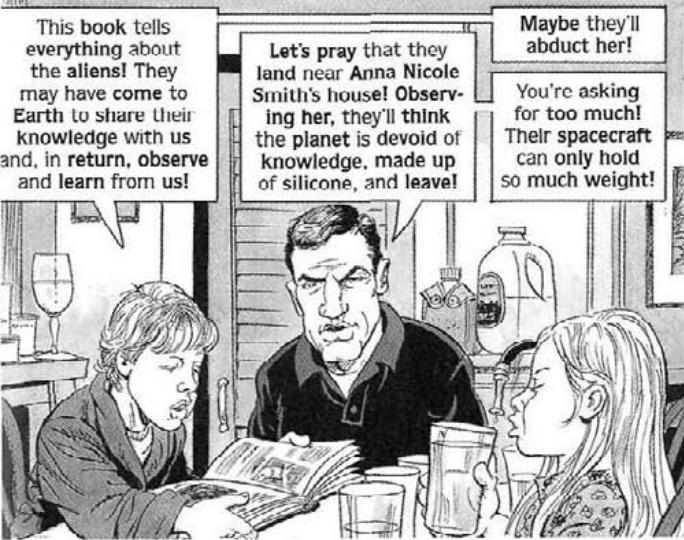
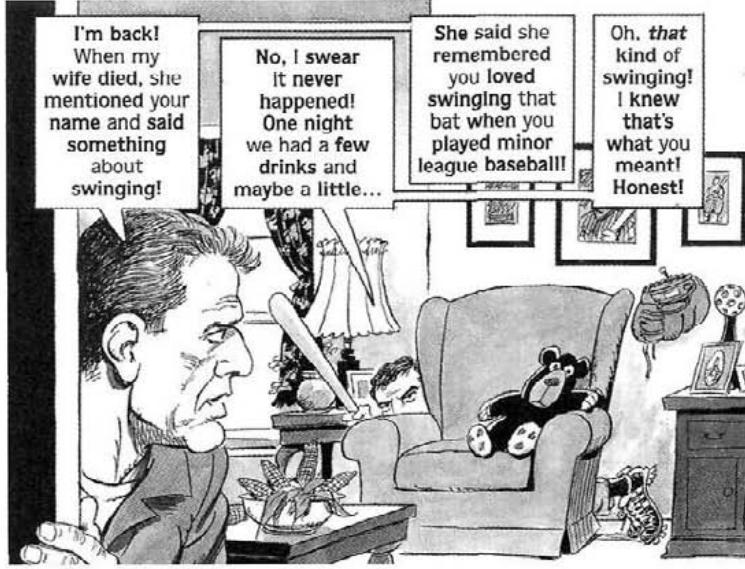
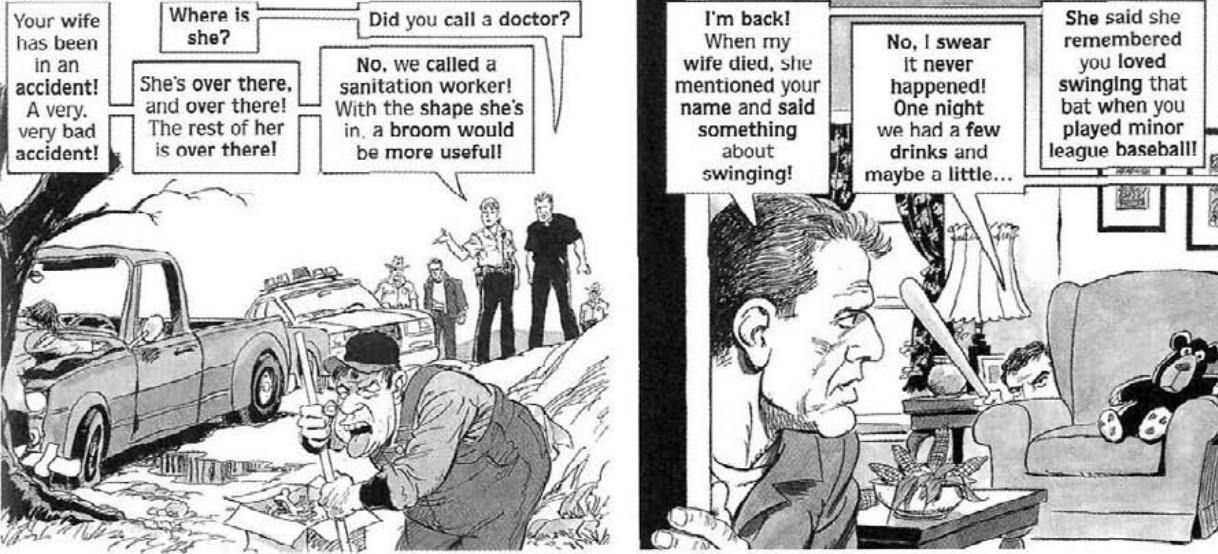


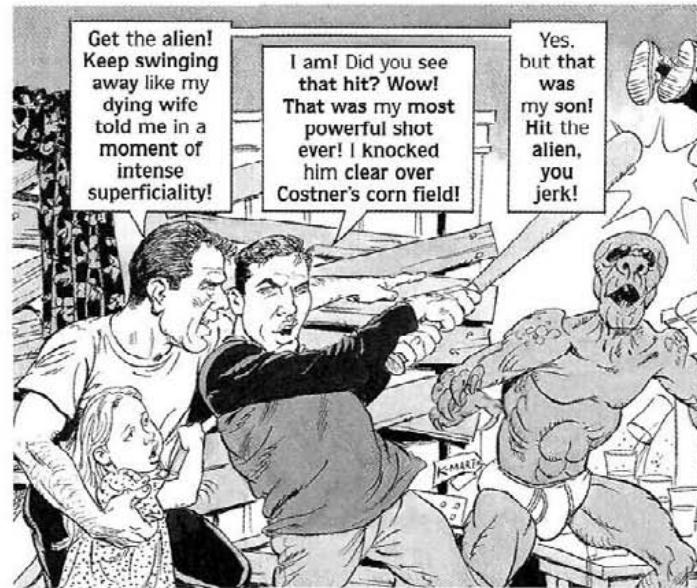
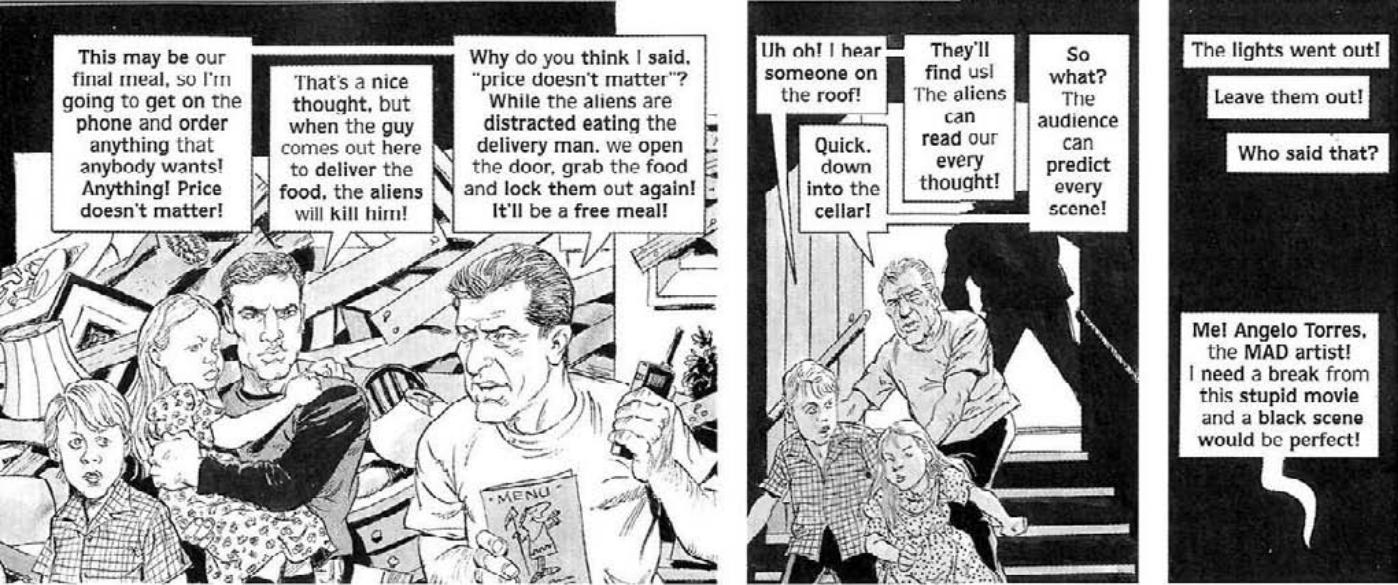
So, the question is, which group are you in?

I'm in the group that doesn't know what the hell you are talking about!

Sorry, that'll have to do! Now you'll have to excuse me for a while! I feel a flashback coming on!





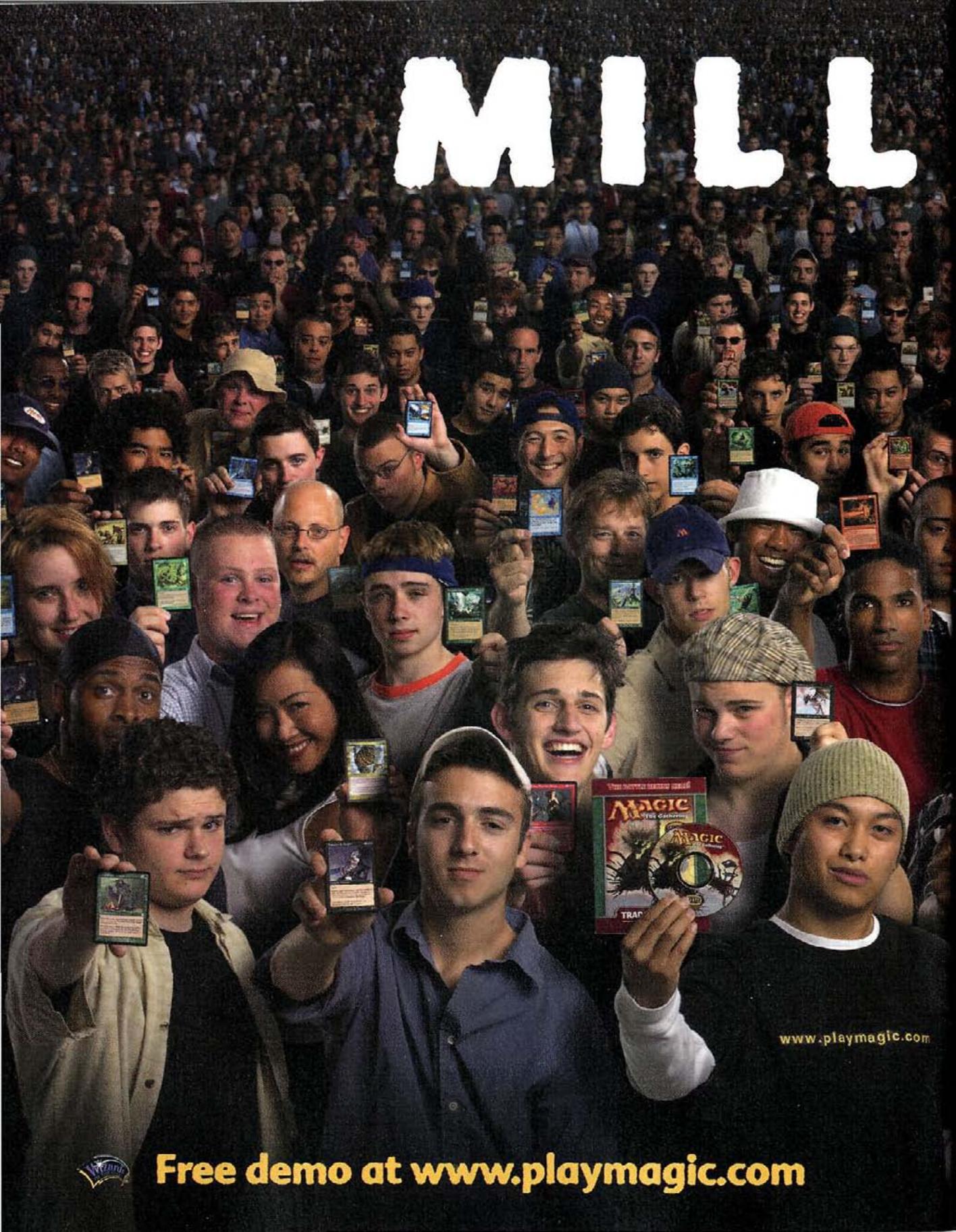


**THE FIRST**

**THE BEST**

**THE FEW**

# MILL

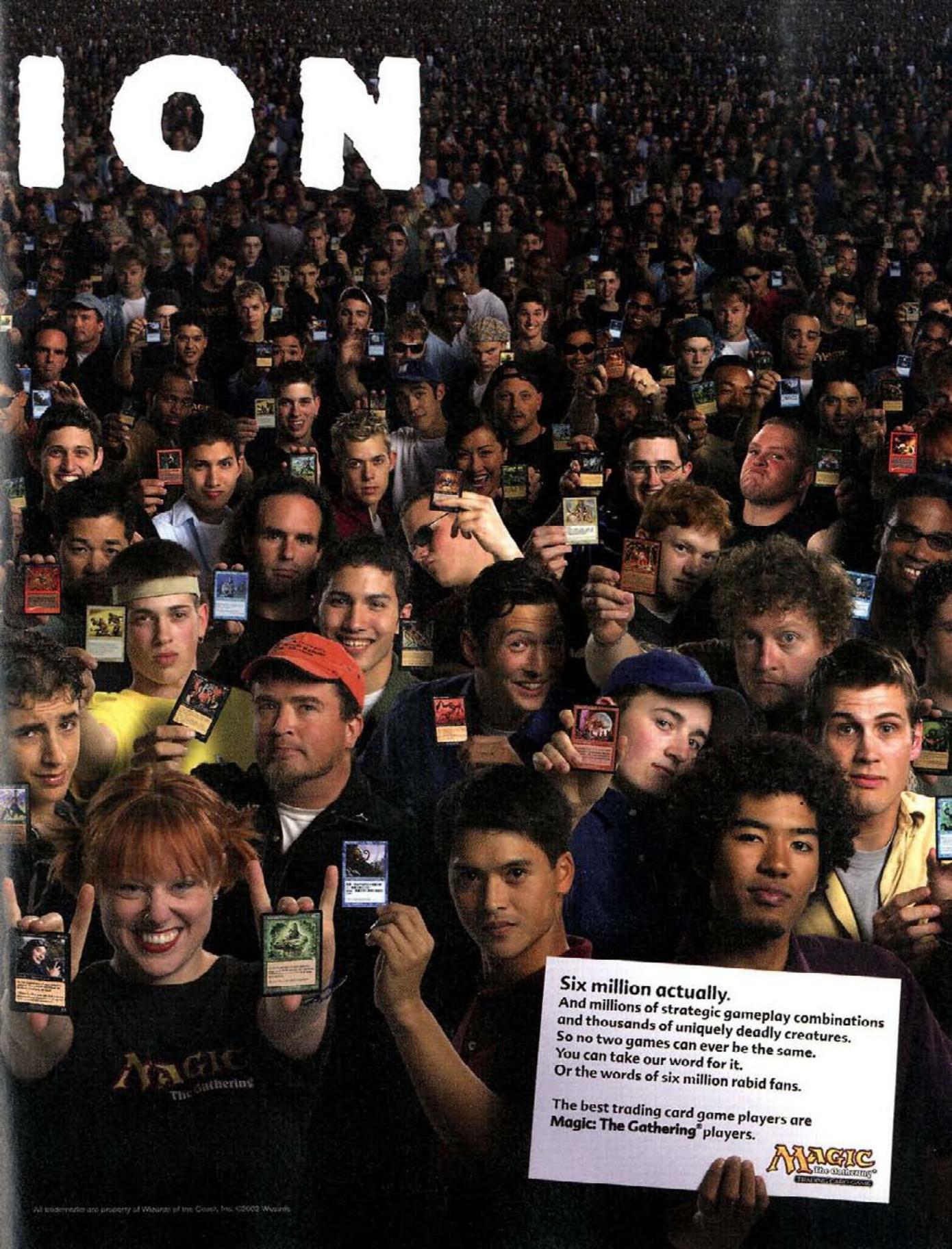
A large, dense crowd of people, mostly young adults, filling the background of the advertisement. They are all holding up individual Magic: The Gathering cards towards the camera, creating a repetitive pattern of faces and cards.

[www.playmagic.com](http://www.playmagic.com)

Free demo at [www.playmagic.com](http://www.playmagic.com)



# ION



MAGIC  
The gathering

Six million actually.  
And millions of strategic gameplay combinations  
and thousands of uniquely deadly creatures.  
So no two games can ever be the same.  
You can take our word for it.  
Or the words of six million rabid fans.

The best trading card game players are  
**Magic: The Gathering®** players.

MAGIC  
The gathering®  
TRADING CARD GAME

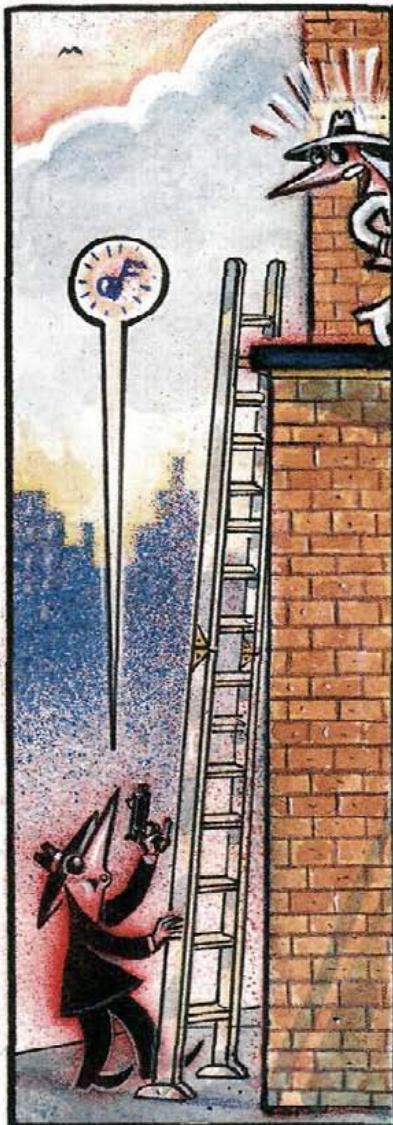
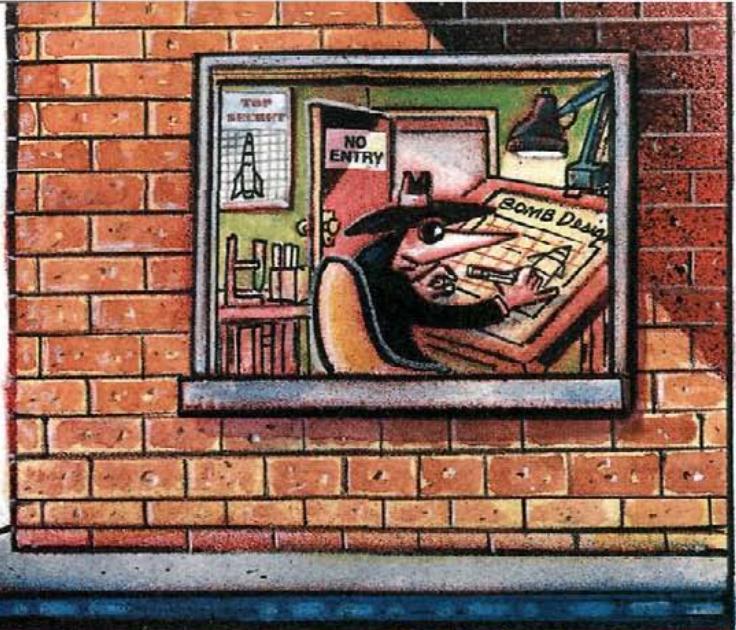
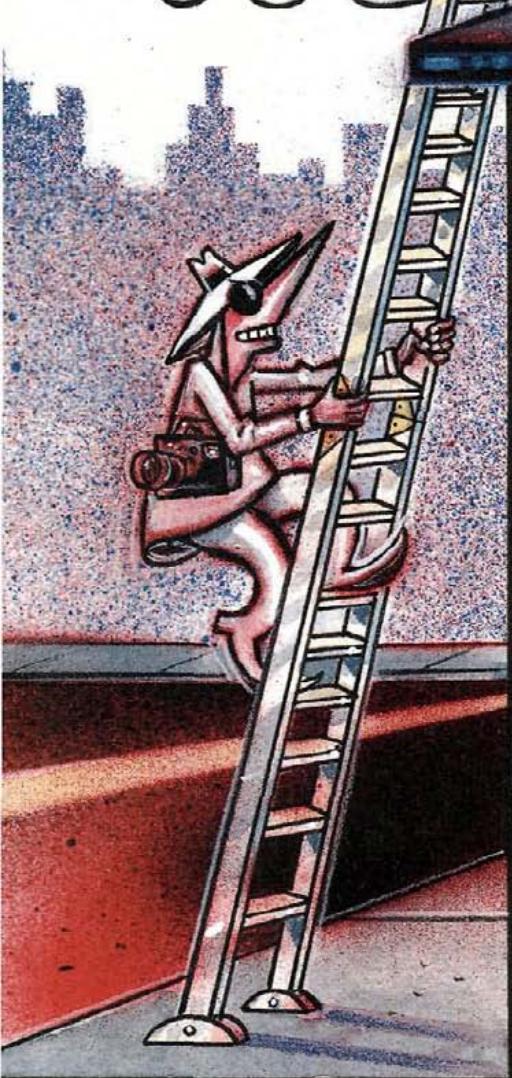


JOKES AND DAGGERS DEPT.

# SPY

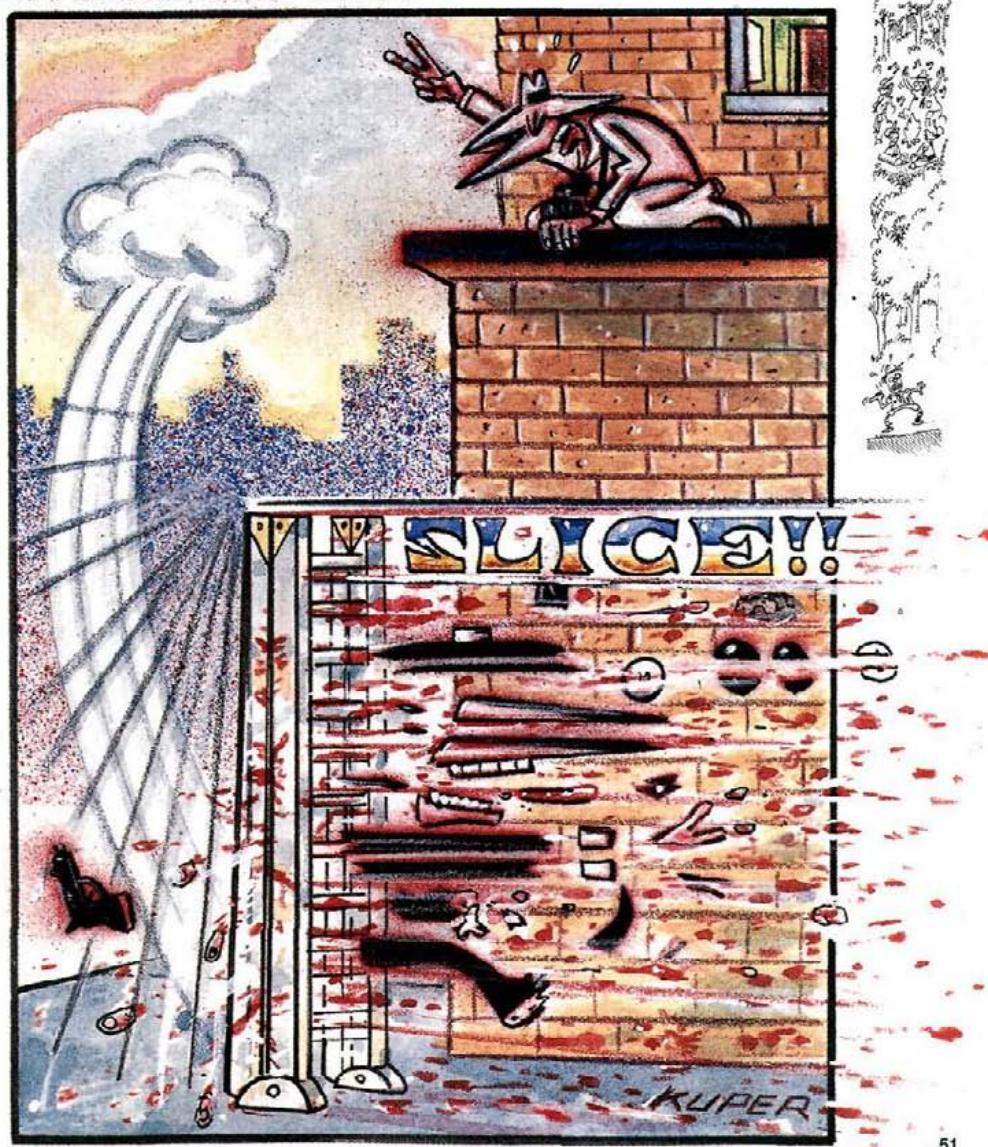
VS

# SPY



ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER KUPER





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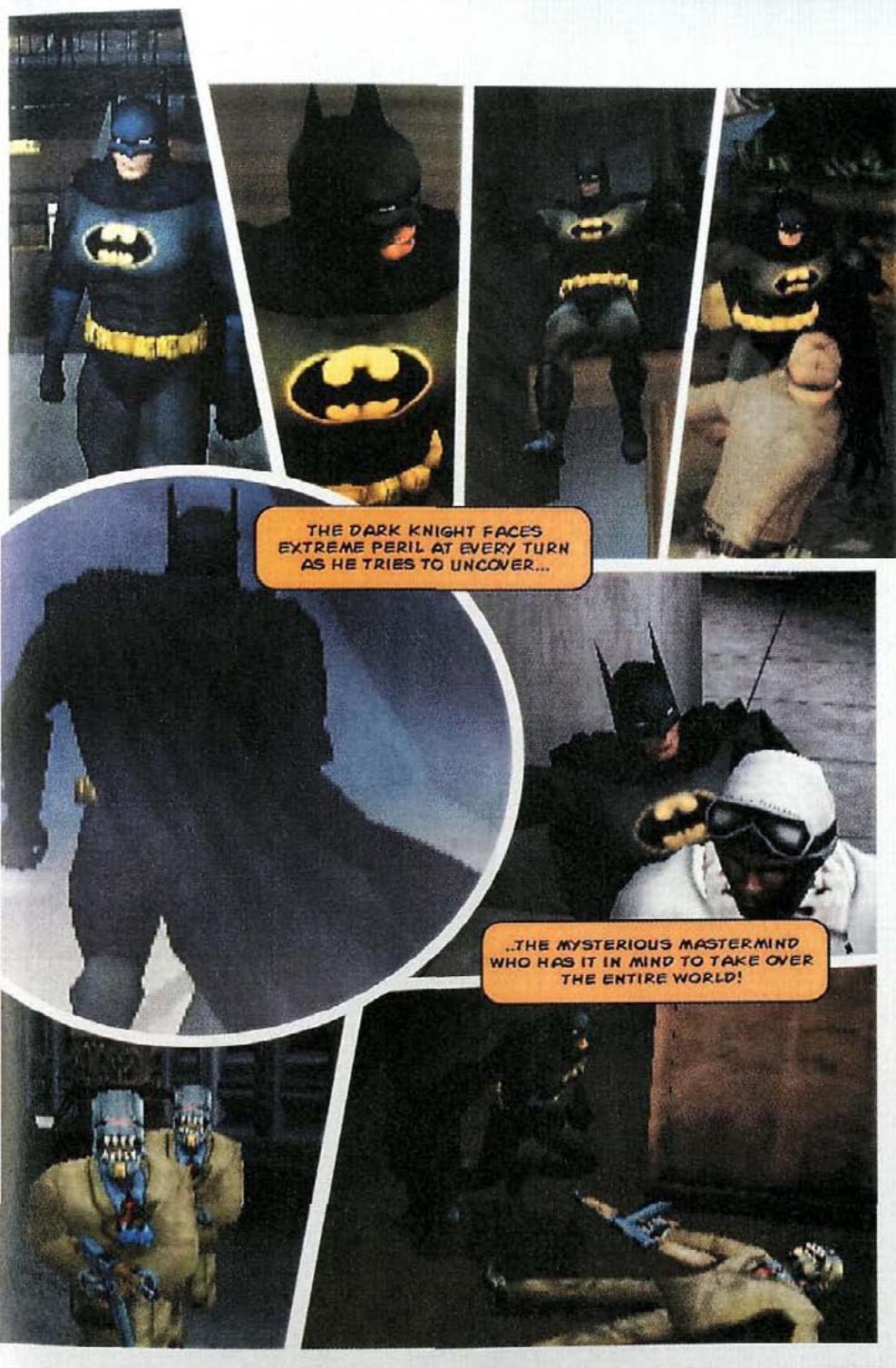


THE STORY THUS FAR: GANG WAR RAGES IN THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY ...

WHILE AT ARKHAM, POISON IVY, JOKER, KILLER CROC & OTHER INMATES ARE RUNNING THE ASYLUM.



Inspired by DC Comics, Batman: Dark Tomorrow pits a tougher, darker Dark Knight against the Joker, Mr. Freeze, Poison Ivy, Killer Croc, Black Mask, the ventriloquist & Scarface, and



coming soon



coming soon



coming soon



more, written by scott peterson (batman writer) and kenji terada (final fantasy i, ii & iii).  
a collectors' edition dc comic is included to set the stage. but to batman, this is no game!

KEMCO®



ALL JAFFEE DEPT.

GOOD LORD!  
IT'S YET ANOTHER  
RIDICULOUS  
EPISODE OF...

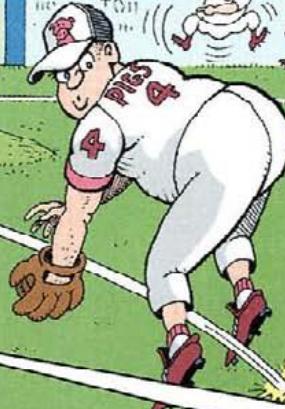
# SNAPPY ANSWERS TO

Will they call  
that an error?

Wheaties  
THE SEXY CEREAL

Dis Pepsi  
Cola

BUSH BEER  
DRINK! DON'T  
THINK!



No! This is "soccer night," so the players  
can't touch the ball  
with their hands!

Of course not!  
It was a  
brilliant play...  
just not  
for his team!

Are you  
going to ask for  
a rematch?

ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE

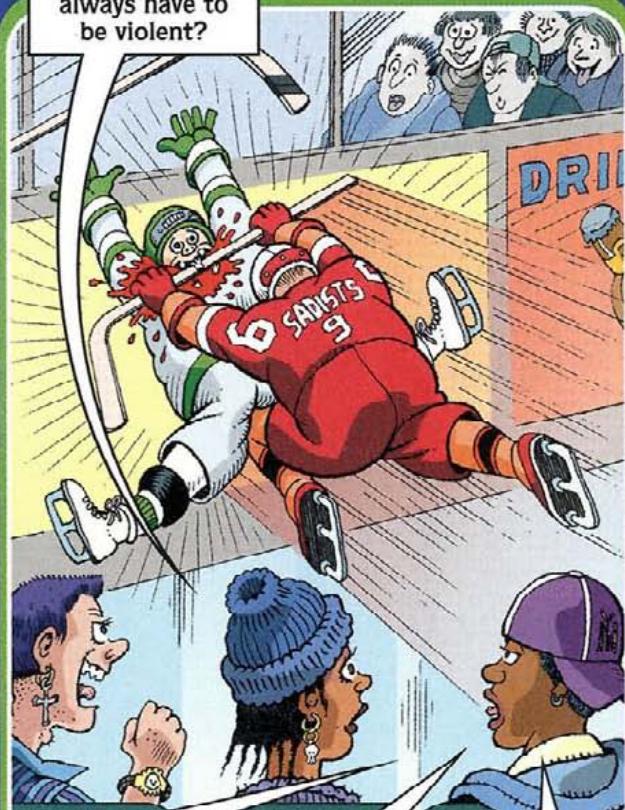


Of course,  
if he doesn't  
mind hitting  
a guy in a  
wheelchair!

Yes! Maybe  
he can pound  
my face  
back straight  
again!

Yes, as soon as I ask  
my doctor to match my  
organs with the body  
parts they should be  
attached to!

Do hockey players  
always have to  
be violent?



They're not violent,  
they're just helping  
each other stay awake  
during this low  
scoring, dreadfully  
boring game!

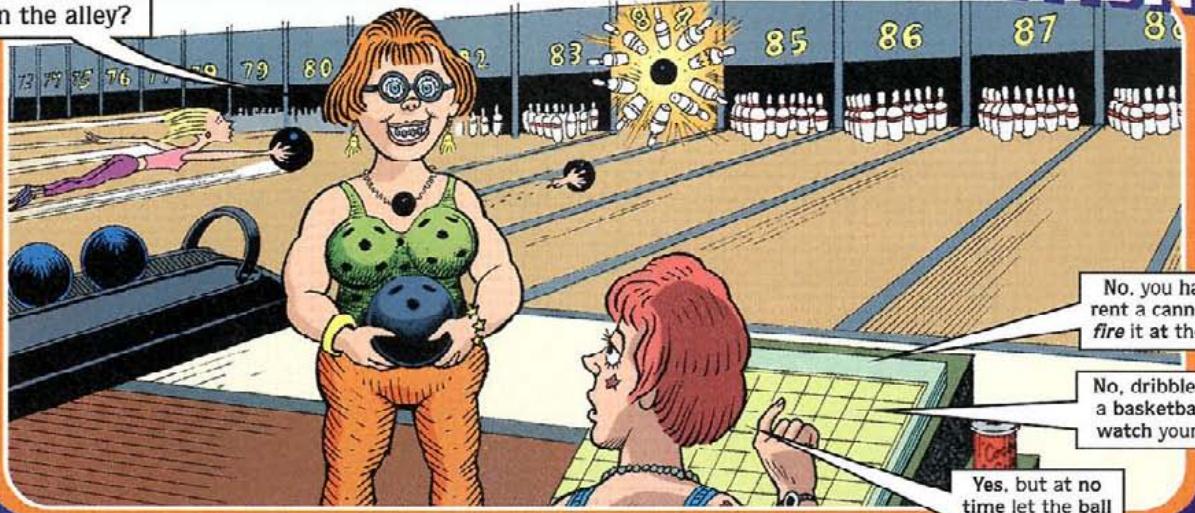
They're not  
violent! A full-speed,  
head-on  
collision is just the  
quickest way to  
stop on ice skates!

No! There's  
a blood  
drive tonight  
and they're  
just doing  
their part!

# STUPID QUESTIONS

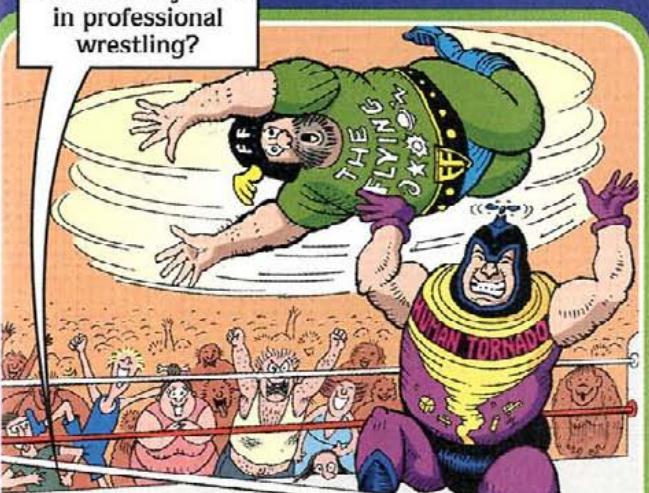
## SPECIAL SPORTS EDITION!

Do I roll the ball down the alley?



Are there any rules in professional wrestling?

COLORIST: DIGITAL CHAMELEON

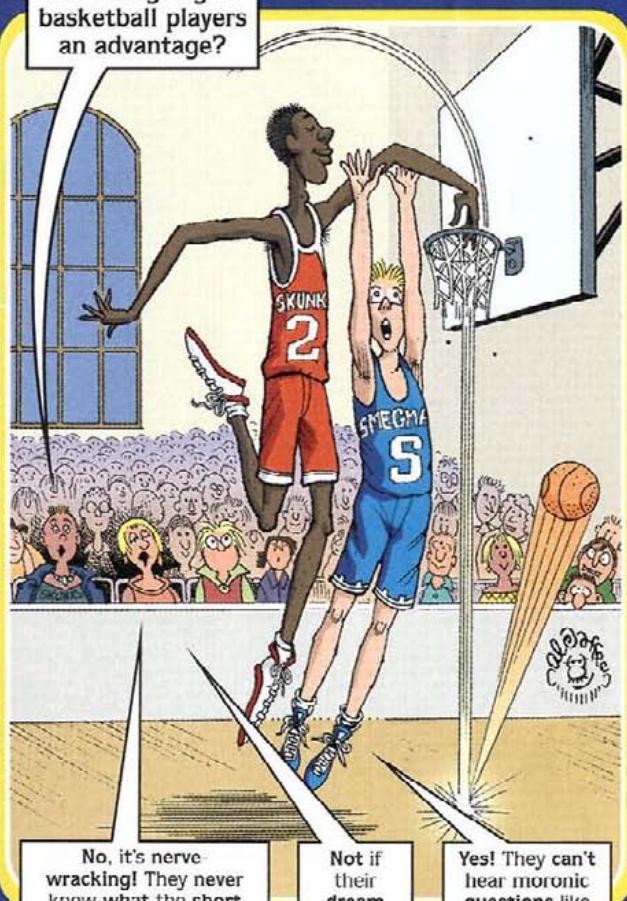


No, unless you count never deviating from the script a rule!

Yes, once your opponent ceases to have a pulse, the match is more or less over!

No, you need a brain to follow rules!

Does height give basketball players an advantage?





GRIEVING LAS VEGAS DEPT.

# MAD's CELEBRITY CAUSE-OF-DEATH BETTING ODDS

Our team of crack oddsmakers gives you the latest Vegas line on how one of today's biggest stars will karate kick the bucket!

THIS MONTH'S FUTURE STUNT CORPSE:

## JACKIE CHAN

### CAUSE OF DEATH

Massive eardrum blowout from standing next to Chris Tucker through two movies

### ODDS

2:1

Accidentally kicked to death while attempting mid-air sex with actress from *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*

4:1

Fatally karate chops self in back of head during stunt

10:1

Flogged by parents who have to pay medical bills of kids who see his movies and then attempt his stunts

15:1

Total exhaustion from making sure his films contain every single cop/buddy movie cliché

20:1

Chokes on own tongue attempting line of Shakespeare while filming a Kung Fu version of *Hamlet*

25:1

# HOW SHOULD THE MOST CORRUPT BUSINESS EXECUTIVES BE PUNISHED?

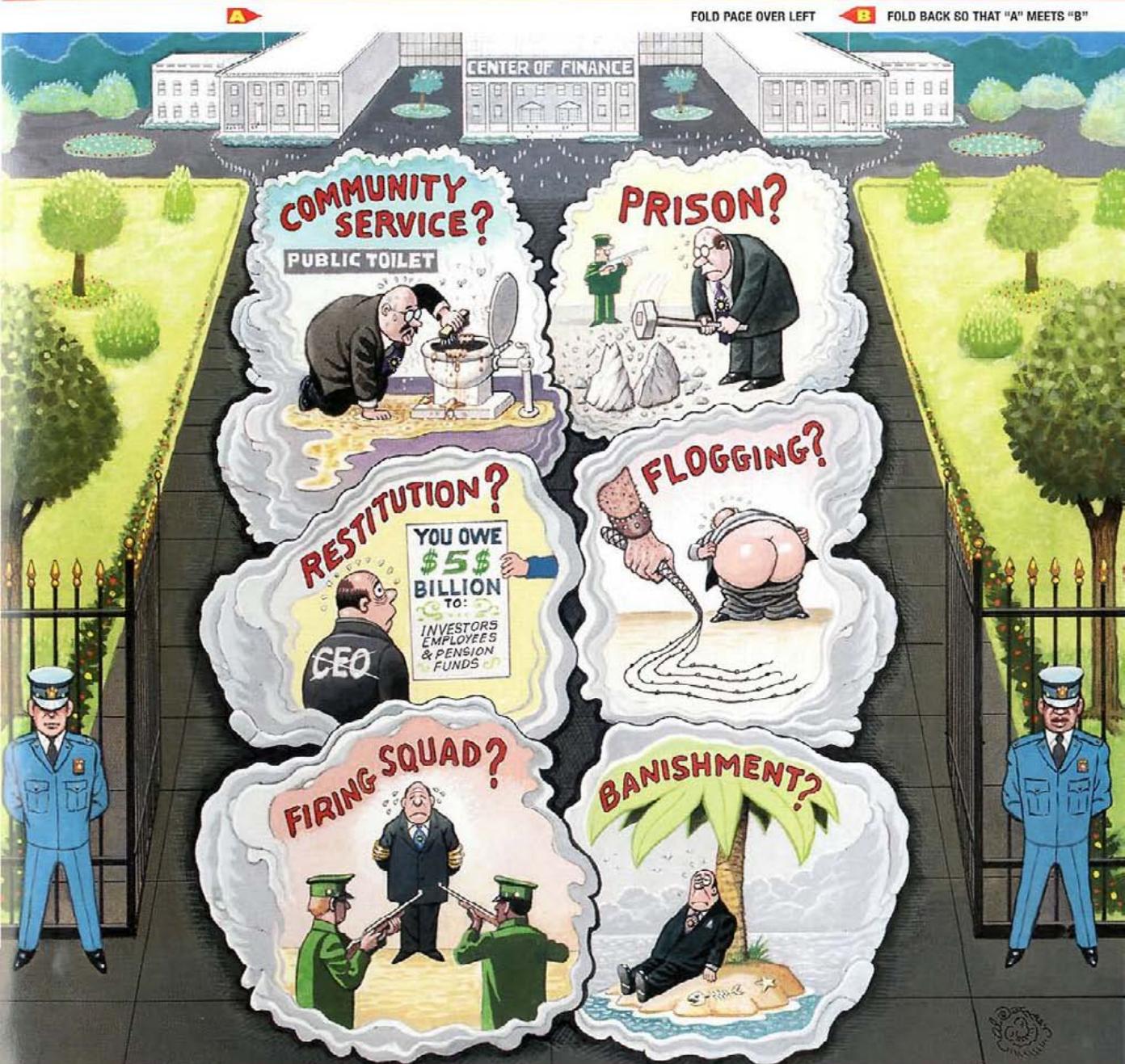
## HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS **MAD FOLD-IN**

It seems every time we open the newspaper, another executive is being investigated for embezzling money, dumping stock or just being all-around sleazy. It's really getting out of control! How can society put an end to it? What punishment is harsh enough to dissuade the corrupt individuals? To find out what we think is an appropriate punishment, fold page in as shown.

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



MANY BUSINESSMEN ARE CROOKS AND WE'D LIKE THEM RESIDING IN JAIL. THEIR LAWYERS WILL CAMPAIGN FROM EVERY LEGAL ANGLE TO KEEP 'EM OUT. BUT THE BEST THING WE COULD AND SHOULD DO IS PUSH FOR MUCH STRONGER LAWS THAT WOULD ADMINISTER JUSTICE TO EVERY INVESTOR AND CORPORATION

# JUSTICE LEAGUE™

## INJUSTICE FOR ALL

MD MIDWAY



### JUSTICE LEAGUE COMES TO THE GAME BOY® ADVANCE

When global catastrophe strikes and the world is in peril, the call goes out for the Justice League, the greatest super heroes of all time. Fighting for truth, justice and freedom, *Superman*, *Batman*, *Wonder Woman*, *The Flash*, *Green Lantern*, *Hawkgirl* and *Martian Manhunter* have banded together to fight for the common good against the *Injustice League* in an all-new action adventure title for the Game Boy® Advance. Featuring 12 levels of non-stop action, gamers will overcome dangerous obstacles, an onslaught of villains and discover power-ups on the path to victory!

GAME PREVIEW AT:  
[WWW.JUSTICELIGUE.MIDWAY.COM](http://WWW.JUSTICELIGUE.MIDWAY.COM)



GAME BOY ADVANCE

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(S02)



Violence